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ANECDOTES

IN

TRAVELS,

FROM THE

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

INTO THE INTERIOR PARTS OF

AFRICA.

FROM THE FRENCH

of

M. VAILLANT. ^K

L O N D O N

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P R E F A C E.

THE Editor thinks it necessary, by way of Preface, to acquaint the reader of the following pages, that the original work was received with pleasure, and read with avidity, by every lover of natural knowledge in *France*. In order to render so useful a work as extensive as possible, this abridgement, although comprised into
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P R E F A C E.

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so small a compass as one pocket volume, contains the whole of Monsieur *Vaillant's* Journal, as well as every other matter any ways material in that interesting publication.

The editor conceives it will not only be found useful to adults, but to such youth as wish for useful information; or to acquire that knowledge of the customs and manners of the inhabitants of distant regions, so very necessary to every friend of this great commercial country.

J. L.

A N E C-



A N E C D O T E S

I N

T R A V E L S.

HAVING got every thing necessary for my voyage, I embarked on board the *Held Woltemaade*, lying in the Texel, bound for Ceylon, in the East Indies. We weighed anchor on the 19th December, 1780, the day before the declaration of war, between England and Holland; and passed the channel unperceived by the English fleet.

About nine in the morning of the 1st of February, 1781, when three degrees North of the Equator, we descried, by the assistance
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of our glasses, a small vessel; and in a few hours after, we perceived that it was towed by two shallops. We supposed it to be no other than a ship in distress, which wanted our assistance; at three in the afternoon, being very near her, we hoisted our colours, and fired a gun with powder. In return, we received first a ball in our stern, afterwards a broadside; the vessel, at that instant hoisting English colours. Astonishment pervaded our crew from this unexpected attack; there was not a man in our vessel who had ever been in an action. The privateer (for such our adversary was) continued to cannonade, and threatened to sink us, if we did not immediately strike; our Captain, almost petrified with fear, answered, it was not in his power to surrender without leave from the Captain of the *Mercury*, who was his Commodore.

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At length, as if by miracle, the breeze freshened, and the Mercury got near enough to hail our ship, and demanded the reason why we did not fire. Our Captain's answer was, he waited for orders; a fit excuse this from a sailor attacked by a vessel with only sixteen eight pounders, who had thirty-two of heavier metal, besides pattercroes, plenty of ammunition, and three hundred men.

The Mercury engaged the enemy, and we followed her example; and notwithstanding she was between us and the English vessel, we now fired away as fast as we could. Our people emulated each other in drunkenness, and running about; some reeling and hallowing, others crying, swearing, and hiding themselves; our Chaplain (no doubt, to inspire himself with courage) had imbibed large portions of

Hollands and Coniac; he even had the temerity to go down into the powder room, which contained twenty-five thousand weight of powder, for Ceylon; with a lanthorn in his hand, and returned bringing powder for the cartridges, without the least precaution.

The enemy left us about eleven at night; they were soon at a distance, however we continued firing. Our people now walked the deck with firm step, talked loud, and dared their opponents long since out of hearing. Nevertheless, none of them were bold enough to go to bed; and like the rest, I passed the night on a sack amongst a range of guns, continually awakened by the vigilance of our watch, whom I really believe, still imagined, they heard the sound of the English cannon.

I have

I have already given my reader an account of the confusion which reigned on board us during the action, and it is here necessary to add, that on examining the guns on the following day, some were found charged to the mouth; even three charges of powder pressed on each other, with as many balls; and several guns were loaded with bullets: in fact, had it not been for the timely interference of the Mercury, we must have been taken. The English, no doubt, supposed we had no cannon, or that if any, they were wood; for had we made the least resistance, they must have retired with more haste, if possible, than they advanced.

I cannot finish this picture of Belgic cowardice, truly worthy the pencil of a Hogarth, without mentioning a circumstance, which forces me to smile while I relate it.—

During the cannonading, in the way to my cabbin, I saw the gentleman who had the charge of the company's papers, seated by the box which contained them, ready to give it to the waves, if there appeared an absolute necessity.— This man may be said to keep his post, but terror, not duty, fixed him there. “Vaillant!” he exclaimed, as I passed; “it is all over with us; alas! my friend, we are all undone! we are lost!” I used every effort I was master of to encourage and engage him, at least to check those visible appearances of his alarm; when, lo! at the moment a ball rushed through the cabin with a horrid crash; when down dropt the poor man, without sense or motion. I really thought him dead, but soon after he rose up, crying and sobbing.

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The day following the action, many of our gallant crew seemed thoroughly convinced that the English ship must have sunk, in consequence of their terrible fire; and the officers complimented each other on their prowess, in a manner truly diverting; for I am satisfied the English did not receive a single shot of ours. I could not help joking them on the business, particularly when I learned that Dr. Engelbright, who, during the action, hid himself in the hold, was ordered to draw up an account of this puissant sea fight.

Our voyage, upon the whole, was fortunate; for in three months and ten days from our departure, we saw the mountains at the Cape.

We anchored the same day in Table Bay; the Captain of the Port, Mr. Staring, came on board
and

and acquainted us with the declaration of war. I landed the following day, and went immediately to pay my respects to those gentlemen to whom I had recommendation; I was treated by them with great politeness, offering me every service in their power.

I was impatient to see this new country; and my eyes wandered over the vast desert, which I was going to explore.

The town of the Cape is situated on the declivity of Table and Lyon Mountains, the streets though wide, are inconvenient, from being badly paved; the houses are uniform, spacious, and handsome, the tops are covered with reeds, to prevent accidents from the high winds. The furniture is simple, but neat; pictures and looking-glasses, being the principal ornaments.

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On entering the town by way of the castle, a number of elegant buildings present themselves to the view. On one side the whole of the company's gardens are seen ; on the other the fountains supplied from Table Mountain by a channel. This water is excellent, and supplies abundantly, not only the inhabitants, but also the vessels that touch here.

The men are well made, and the woman in general handsome, the latter, dress with elegance ; but have neither air nor grace. The slaves suckle the children, from whence a familiarity ensues prejudicial to future manners. Education seems to be much neglected ; reading and writing only being taught at the Cape.

There is neither coffee-house or tavern on the Cape, nor is there
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the least need of one; every private house answers that purpose. The usual price for board and lodging, is about four shillings and six-pence per day. Butcher's meat and corn are very cheap, except during war time, then every article of that nature rises to an extravagant price.

Fish is plenty; among those in the greatest estimation are, a red fish, called a *Rooman*, the *Klepvis*, which is without scales; the *Steenbraafen*, the *Stompneus*, and some others. Oysters are scarce, eels scarcer, and no lobsters. Game must be procured at several miles distant from the Cape; they are principally the *Steenbock*, the *Duyker*, the *Reebock*, the *Gryfbock*, and the *Bontebock*; all different species of the *Gazell*, (of which I shall speak more hereafter); small hares, called the down hares, are numerous.

Here

Here are also partridges, woodcocks, and quails; very delicious, and differ very little from those of Europe. They are seen here only during their passage.

European fruits are much degenerated at the Cape. Cherries, apples, and pears are bad; citrons, oranges, and figs are excellent; the banana is ill tasted. There are no fruits natural to the soil, if we except a few insipid berries.

European vegetables seem naturalized here, except asparagus and artichokes. The south east wind sometimes dries the earth to such a degree, as to render it incapable of culture. This wind rages most between January and April. I have seen whole gardens laid waste by it in a few hours. It announces its approach by a small white cloud, which rests at the top
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of Table Mountain; at this time it is usual to say, *The Mountain has put on its wig.*

The most dangerous disease at this place, is the sore throat; the small-pox is another scourge. The latter was introduced to this part of the world, by the Europeans; it is generally very fatal here, and the Hottentots seem to be attacked by it, in preference to all others. A strict examination is made into all vessels which arrive, to prevent, as much as possible, its introduction to the town.

Strangers are mostly well received at the Cape, but the English are adored; the inhabitants are eager to offer them their lodgings, and in a few days the master, mistress, and children adopt the manners of their guests, and the whole house appears English. — The French

French are altogether in as little esteem, the hatred towards them is extraordinary ; nay they aver, that they would rather be taken by the English, than owe their safety to the French.

Mr. Vangenep, of the Middleburgh man of war, bound to *Saldanha*, having politely offered me an agreeable accommodation on board his ship, and also every other means in his power for the prosecuting my researches, I got my effects on board ; on the 11th of May we sailed, in company with four others, and cast anchor the next day at *Saldanha*.

The water here is inferior to that at the Cape, but provisions are cheaper ; the company maintains a post at this place, a few men under the command of a Corporal.

Chance now seemed resolved to familiarize me on a sudden, with the dangers I had come in search of. The commander of the before-mentioned post, having invited me to hunt with him, we sat out ; when the report of my gun had startled a young Gazelle, I thought my dog was in quest of it, but stopping at a large clump of bushes he began to bark violently. I made no doubt but the Gazelle had taken refuge there, and hastened to the spot in hopes of killing it ; my appearance greatly encouraged my dog. I entered among the bushes, beating them with my fowling-piece, in order to clear my passage. It is impossible to express my horror and surprise, when in the center of the thicket, an enormous panther presented itself to me—his eyes glaring—his neck extended—his mouth half open—his hollow

low growling—indeed I thought myself already devoured.

The intrepidity of my dog saved me; he kept the enemy at bay, while I retired softly to the edge of the bushes; and having gained the open plain, I soon recovered the post road. I heard the report of my companion's gun, but it was night, and I had no inclination to join him.

It was late when we returned, and having related my adventure it occasioned much laughter.

We often resorted to *Schaapen Island* to shoot rabbits; in one of these excursions a *Cachalot* raised itself up so near our shallop, as bid fair to overwhelm us. The *Cachalot* is from sixty to eighty feet long, and will frequently raise itself half its length out of the water.

One night, while at supper on board the Middleburgh, we felt an extraordinary motion in the vessel; Captain Vangenep thought we dragged our anchor; but we soon discovered it to be owing to a *Cachalot*, who had entangled his tail between our cables; the people ran for the harpoons, but in the intrim it disintangled itself, and escaped.

In *Saldanha Bay* is a little island called *Dassen Island*, or the Island of Monkeys. Being told there was a monument erected therein over a Captain of a Danish vessel, by his crew; Captain Vangenep, as well as myself, being desirous of seeing it, we set out towards the place. As we approached it, a noise excited our curiosity; it was a kind of hollow buzzing, the cause of which we could not discover. With great difficulty we climbed the
rocks,

rocks, and never did a more extraordinary spectacle present itself to the eye! an immense quantity of birds of different forms and colours! cormorants, sea-gulls, swallows, pellicans, and all the feathered inhabitants of this part of Africa, seemingly collected; their various croakings modified according to their different kinds, formed such music, that I was compelled to stop my ears in order to diminish the din. We could scarce step without crushing either eggs or young ones. The earth was absolutely covered with them.

The *Manchot*, who abound here above all other birds, are about two feet high, walks perpendicularly, and with an air of gravity; its wings are without feathers, and are useful only in swimming. We reached the monument of the Dane, where we found these birds in

crowds, and not in the least alarmed at our appearance.

Nature had added to this simple tomb, what the poet's imagination, or the artist's chissel, could possibly never have reached. The best sculptured screech owl has not so hideous, so melancholy an aspect as the Manchot.

The monument itself was a long square, about three feet high, composed of broken pieces of rock; for a time I fixed my eyes on this mausoleum of an unfortunate voyager, and pour'd forth the tribute of a sigh to his manes.

We had hardly been three months in the bay, yet I already was acquainted with all its environs, and had been so well employed about my principal object, as to be able to collect a considerable

able number of curious birds, shells, insects, plants, and marine productions; but alas! an unfortunate event soon deprived me of the fruits of my labour.

Monfieur Suffrien having arrived at the Cape, orders were brought for the *Held Woltemaade* (the ship in which I came from Europe) to depart immediately for Ceylon. This ship had followed us to *Sal-danha Bay*, and it seemed to be written in the book of fate, that it was not to depart till it had completed my ruin.

Captain S—— V—— failed the beginning of August, and as I conjectured it would happen, so it did; for the *Held Woltemaade* had hardly got out, before it was taken by the Squadron under the command of Commodore Johnstone. The English thereby getting information

tion of our situation, presented themselves at the mouth of the Bay, and commanded us to surrender, we cut our cables and run aground. Captain *Vangenep* set fire to his ship, and in an instant my effects, my project, my collection, and all my hopes vanished in smoke. The other vessels in the Bay, were plundered and taken by the English.

My situation, after this horrible blow, was shocking: two thousand leagues from my wife and children, without friends, without shelter; my resources, my gun, six ducats, and the cloaths on my back only. I could not avoid shedding tears; I even wished a shot from the enemy would end my life, and spare me further misery.

My first gloom, however, subsiding, reflection assured me, that
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while I had youth and vigour, I might still hope. It now occurred to me, that a Colonist I had often seen in hunting, and who lived about four leagues off, would suffer me to remain with him, until I could receive supplies from Europe. I repaired to this man's solitary dwelling, and entreated his assistance: the humane, the generous *Slaber*, received me with open arms; then took me by the hand, and presented me to his family.

I now began afresh to collect; it was not long after that Mr. Boers, Fiscal, one of the gentlemen to whom I was recommended, found me out in my retreat, and visited me. I gave him an account of the unhappy situation to which the common misfortune had reduced me, by the loss of all I possessed; I likewise informed him of my determination to stay with the honest
Slaber

Slaber, until I could hear from my family ; and in the mean time to extend my knowledge in natural history. Mr. Boers heard me without reply till I had finished, when he said, " Sir, you must not forget you was recommended to me ; the hour of your unhappiness is the time when I should shew myself worthy the confidence my friends repose. I will not deceive them ; my house, my table, and every assistance in my power, is at your service ; take courage, make another effort, reassume your researches, and not let uncertain news from Europe prevent your travels. Leave your resources to me : you shall not refuse.—I will have it so."

I accepted his generous offer, and asked permission to pass a fortnight at *Saldanha*, to repair, if possible, a small part of the loss I had

had sustained ; not knowing whether I should have it in my power to return any more to this unfortunate spot.

At least, I wished to furnish myself with particulars, which I was almost certain I could not procure elsewhere.

I was so perfectly acquainted with the spot, for before the tragical history of our vessel, I had purchased a horse and hired a patientot to attend me, who led me to the most unfrequented places ; the good *Slaben* and his two sons assisted : never could I look at these honest people without astonishment and admiration.

My worthy host had likewise two daughters, of pleasing appearance, and fine form : indeed none
of

of the family measured less than six feet.

I employed, in the best manner I could, the few days of absence which I had obtained from my friends; shells, plants, and hunting, particularly the latter, took up all my time. I was continually exposed to danger; but I had gained a character for intrepidity, ten leagues round.

One evening that I returned early, I found at our dwelling one of the inhabitants, named *Smit*; he had come to solicit our assistance against a tyger that had for some time infested his division, and carried away every night some of his cattle. I accepted this business with joy, and fixed on the next day for the undertaking; having persuaded some young men in the neighbourhood to be of our company.

company. We got together all the dogs we could, and provided ourselves with arms: at break of day I reached the plain with *Smit*, and some of his friends; we were in all eighteen, and about the same number of dogs. *Smit* gave us to understand the tyger had that night robbed him of a sheep.

I was furnished with three pieces, two of which my Hottentot carried. After beating the bushes, for full an hour, we found the half-devoured carcase of the sheep; some moments after, our dogs pressed together, and rushed into a large thicket, barking and howling as loud as possible.

I immediately gave my horse to my Hottentot, and getting on a rising ground, and looking back, I could see my companions were alarmed; but John Slaber, (son of

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my

my host) came up, and said he would not leave me; however, I could see the poor lad gave himself up for lost. The tyger and the dogs seemed equally fearful of each other, the former not daring to quit his retreat, nor the latter to enter it: my dog, the smallest of the pack, was always at their head. The beast roared terribly, and I expected every moment it would rush out; a few random shot dislodged him, and out he came. His appearance seemed the signal for every one to decamp: even John Slaber, formed with the strength of a Hercules, abandoned me, and ran to the others.—I remained with one Hottentot. The panther, in endeavouring to gain another thicket, passed within fifty paces of us, with all the dogs at his heels. We saluted him, by firing three shot as he passed; a tract of blood made me presume I had wounded him.

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He had taken another thicket ; the dogs were furious ; some of the people now drew near, but the greater part had entirely gone off.

The animal was baited more than an hour, and forty random shot at least fired into the thicket : I mounted my horse, and got on the side opposite to the dogs ; I saw him squatting and striking with his paw, to keep the dogs at bay. I now fired my carbine, which I immediately dropt to catch up my gun, which I carried at the bow of my saddle ; but this precaution was useless, for the tyger lay extended, without motion. We now dragged him from the thicket, and examined him. It was a male ; from the extremity of the tail to to the nose he measured seven feet ten inches. I found that he exactly answered the description of the panther given by *Buffon* ; but

through all this country it is known by no other name than the tyger. The Hottentots call it *garougama*, or the spotted lion.

We now prepared to take off his skin, which being done, my Hottentot wrapped it about him, and we returned home in triumph.

Accounts of this expedition were soon spread ; and I received compliments on my behaviour, even from those who had so ill seconded me.

Soon after another Colonist sent to entreat me to assist his sons in destroying a panther that infested his vicinity. "No," answered I, "tell your master, I am not come into this country to destroy the race of tygers ;—I was too ill seconded in my first attempt, and I shall

shall not willfully engage in another."

The favourable season for my travels drawing near, I took leave of the good *Slaber* and his family; I gave a last look at the bay of *Saldanha*, and took the road to the Cape.

Mr. Boers expected me; on my arrival I became a part of his family; he even prevented my wishes, by providing every necessary for my journey. While things were preparing, I more particularly examined the town, and its environs; I went several times upon Table and Lyon mountains.—The base of the first is formed of pure granite: its height as computed by the *Abbe de la Caille*, is three thousand six hundred feet above the level of the sea, and can only

be ascended by the chasm through which the water flows that supplies the town. It is the haunt of great numbers of vultures of that kind called *perenoptere*; they are frequently driven from the mountains by the south-east wind into the very streets of the town; where they are knocked down by the inhabitants.—They have also here that kind of ape which the Dutch call *bawians*; notorious thieves.

A servant of the company is always stationed here, who fires a cannon for every ship he discovers; and by a signal, they know in an instant whether the ship is from Europe or India.

I went to visit the famous territory of *Constantia*. This vineyard does not, however, produce a tenth of the wine that bears its name. Some say, the original plants was brought

brought from Burgundy; others, that they came from Madeira; and others, even from Persia.—This wine is delicious at the Cape, but loses much of its goodness on being transported; and after five years old it is good for nothing.

The Colonists, for several leagues round the Cape, do not employ Hottentots; preferring Negroes, who are not so lazy, and whom they can more safely trust. The Hottentots, careless and inconstant by nature, often go away on the approach of hard labour, and leave their masters in embarrassment. The Negroes desert also, but vain are their efforts for liberty; they are soon retaken, and sent to the Bailiff of the Canton, from whom the owner receives them for a small fine, after they have received some trifling correction. There is no place in the world
where

where slaves are treated with such humanity as at the Cape.

The Negroes of Mosambique and Madagascar are looked on as the best workmen; when landed they usually sell from one hundred and twenty to one hundred and fifty piastres a head.

The Indians at the Cape, are generally employed in household work. The Malaysians are the most subtle and dangerous slaves; assassinating their masters and mistresses is with them a common crime; during the five years I passed in Africa, I saw many instances of it. They go to the execution with the greatest indifference. I heard one of these wretches say to Mr. Boers, he was glad he had committed the crime; that death was what he wished for, as it would return him to his native country.

Creole

Creole slaves are most in esteem; they are sold at double the price of others; and if they are of any business, their price is exorbitant.

Every thing was now in readiness for my journey. The three months I had passed at the Cape, since my expedition to *Saldanha*, had almost been fully taken up in these preparations.

I had provided myself with two large four wheeled waggons, covered with a tilt. Five large chests just covered the bottom of one of the carriages; and I could readily open any one of them without displacing any of the rest. On these was a mattraß, which I proposed making use of as a bed during my journey, if any thing should prevent me from pitching my tent: at the head of my mattraß I placed a little chest of drawers, which I meant should contain my insects,
or

or any or other object, whose tender texture might require care.

In the waggon also I stowed my arms and ammunition, and we called it the *master waggon*. I had about five hundred weight of powder, and not less than two thousand weight of lead and pewter, wrought and unwrought; sixteen muskets, one of which, of a larger bore than common, I intended for the larger kind of animals (such as the elephant, the rhinoceros, &c.) carried a quarter of a pound of powder. I had, besides these several pair of double barrell'd pistols, a large scymeter, and a dagger.

My second waggon contained a whimsical medley, but not the least estimable on that account: this was my kitchen. Its furniture was not very considerable; a gridiron, frying pan, two sauce pans, and a large

large pot, some plates and dishes, coffee and tea cups, basons, two tea kettles, and a few other necessities composed my whole equipage.

I had a good stock of linen, plenty of sugarcandy and white sugar; coffee, tea, and chocolate; likewise tobacco and brandy, for the Hottentots who were to accompany me; a large tent, and the necessary implements for mending my waggons, and running of lead. An engine for raising weights, some nails, iron in bars, &c. with pins, needles, and thread, composed the second part of my travelling equipage. My two waggons might weigh about five thousand pounds weight.

My train consisted of thirty oxen, three horses, nine dogs, and five Hottentots.

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As my intended journey was known to all Cape Town, I was warmly solicited by several persons to permit them to accompany me; but these gentlemen and I thought very differently; and being careful not to lose the fruits of my journey, was determined to go with my Hottentots only.

I took leave of my friends on the 18th of December, 1781, on horseback, at the head of my cavalcade. I led the way towards *Dutch Hottentote*, and stopped at the decline of day at the foot of those high mountains that border on the east of the Cape.

As soon as we stopped I gave direction to put all things in order in my presence; I sent my beasts to graze, took a review of wag-gons, examined the traces, and assigned each man his employ. I
then

then mounted my horse, reconnoitred the road over the mountains, which we were to pass on the morrow, and having supped lightly, went to rest.

By break of day we began our journey over the mountains; we arrived at the summit with great difficulty through a road full of chasms.

Here I found it necessary to order the oxen to be unyoked, and give them some hours rest; after which, the road being commodious, we descended with as much ease as we had difficulty in our ascent. Wild beasts seldom shewing themselves in these cantons, we travelled till ten o'clock at night, when we arrived on the banks of the river *Palmit*.

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On the following morning we commenced our journey, and in a few hours crossed the river *Bott*, and passed the whole of the canton called *Owne Hoeck*; nor did we stop till eleven o'clock at night.

We set off again by sun-rise, and had in the course of the morning saw a prodigious number of gazells, by the Colonists called *Reebock*.

The heat of the sun at mid-day was so excessive as obliged us to halt; in the mean time I was so fortunate as to kill a *Reebock*. The general colour is a light grey, darker on the back than the sides; its belly white, and its horns five or six inches in length.

I returned to my people. We stayed only to broil part of our game; and in the space of four leagues,

leagues, which we afterwards went, to find a proper place for our encampment, we had on all sides, very near us, gazells, bontibocks, bebales, zebras, ostriches, &c. &c.

My dogs pursued these creatures, who mingled as they fled, and altogether formed one vast herd; but the moment I called off the dogs, each different species, composed a seperate band.

I was now within four or five leagues of the celebrated hot baths, so much cried up and visited by the inhabitants of the Cape. I was anxious to see them, and setting out earlier in the morning than usual, by ten o'clock we reached them.

Government has raised over this spring a spacious and convenient building; there are two baths, the

one for the whites, and the other for the blacks; and not far from thence is the mountain called the Tower of Babel, which is about as high as Table Mountain.

Next day we crossed the river *Steinbock*. I had resolved to travel the greatest part of the night, but was obliged to stop at nine o'clock in the valley of *Soete Melck*, which is a deep morass.

The next day at noon I passed a little *Horde*, belonging to some Hottentots, poor and miserable. I invited some of them to accompany me, promising them rewards; but my persuasions were useless, until I told them I had tobacco sufficient for the whole way; they then promised to be with me the next day.

I passed

I passed the night at *Tiger Hoek* and was preparing for my journey, when three of them arrived with their arms and baggage. I delayed my departure till the afternoon, as I wished to view the country ; one of my recruits requested to accompany me, assuring me he was an excellent huntsman. I ordered him a gun, and we sat out together. We met with a flock of gazells, but they kept out of gunshot. My companion stopping suddenly, told me he saw a *Blawe Bouc* (a blue bock). I did not see it ; he desired me to stand still, and he would give me a good account of it. He began by creeping on his knees; and his mode of hunting being quite new, engaged my attention. —The animal had now rose, and began to graze ; to me it had the appearance of a white horse ; I had never before seen any of this kind of gazells. My Hottentots approached

approached so near, that the surprise of the animal and the firing of his piece was instantaneous. The gazell fell, and I ran with haste to contemplate at my ease the most scarce and beautiful of the African gazells. I assured the Hottentot I would reward him, and then sent him for a horse to carry home our game.

When we got to our camp, I gave him a good stock of tobacco, a steel, some tinder, and one of my best knives; which he began to use, skinning the animal with as much dexterity as he had shot it.

This species of gazells are scarce, and very little known. They are of a light blue colour, rather inclining to grey; the belly and the inner part of the legs are perfectly white.

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The following day we travelled till we gained the border of a considerable lake, abounding with tortoises, of about eight inches long, and four broad; their shell a yellowish grey; they are good eating when boiled.

It is worthy of remark, that in very dry weather these creatures burrow into the earth; where they continue in an inactive state till the return of the rainy season. Their eggs, which they lay in the open air, are about the size of a pigeon's, and well tasted.

Breed river and *Klip river*, lying between *Swillendam* and the place I was now at, and having resolved to see that colony, I crossed them.

I stayed several days at *Swillendam* with Mr. Ryneveld, bailiff of the place. Finding my waggons overloaded. I wished to get an additional

additional carriage; Mr. Ryneveld presented me with one, and also a quantity of provision.

In my suite was a monkey of the species called *Bawians*, which I have before mentioned; from his attachment to me I made him my taster of all fruits or roots which were unknown to my Hottentots; and if *Kees* (for that was his name) refused them, I concluded they were either disagreeable or dangerous.

Kees possessed an instimable quality for an attendant to one in my situation, which was vigilance. From him I received earlier information of the approach of danger than from my dogs; I frequently took him with me a shooting; and by his gambols he expressed his thanks for being admitted of the party.

On

On our journey he amused himself in climbing the trees, searching for gum and honey; if he could find neither, he would dig for roots, one kind of which I found very palatable, and not unsalutary.

When he found himself fatigued, he mounted on the back of one of the dogs; but my largest dog would never carry him a single step; for the moment he felt *Kees* on his shoulder, he would stand still. If any of the dogs came near when he was eating, he generally rewarded him with a box on the ear. He was much afraid of his own species; for if one of them appeared, he would run towards me with all the haste he could. He was a great thief, and ingenious in his robberies; and, if corrected for them, would take himself off, and keep away till the evening.

After

After leaving *Swillendam*, on the 12th of January, 1782, I took my course to the eastward, passed the little river *Buffas*, and came to a wood called *Le Bois de grand Pere*. I wished to explore this wood, but in calling my dogs together, a little bitch named *Rosetta*, was wanting. I sent out my Hottentots in search of her; but without effect. I now ordered one of them to mount a horse, and go in quest of her; in about four hours we saw him returning, bringing with him a chair and a large basket, and *Rosetta* running by his side.

The Hottentot found her laying down by the chair and basket, which had dropped from the waggon, unperceived by any of us.

In crossing a river my cart overset, which sadly deranged my kitchen furniture (which had been removed into it at *Swillendam*)
and

and broke the greater part of my china.

In the evening we pursued our journey, until we were stopped by the river *Duyvenocks*, which was not then fordable. The country being woody, I hoped to meet with some curious birds and insects; I therefore ordered my tents to be pitched. The inhabitants in the environs, hearing of my arrival, came to visit me, and pressed me to visit them; but having determined during the future course of my travels, not to stop at any habitation, I thanked them for their kind invitations, but adhered to my resolution.

This part of the country abounds in partridges. They were of three sorts; all excellent, but one as large as a pheasant. Here are also small gazells about the size of a goat; of a dark brown colour,
with

with spots of white on the thighs. I shot one of a kind still smaller, which I shall hereafter describe.

From *Swillendam* to *Duyvenocks*, the pastures are good, and the land in general superior to that near the Cape. It produces good corn; there are also some vineyards; but the wine produced is very indifferent.

On the 27th the waters of the *Duyvenock* being greatly fallen, we crossed it in safety, as also *Falze River*, and after journeying for thirteen hours we came to the river *Gous* or *Gorits*. It was impossible to cross, being encreased by country floods from a fordable river to an extraordinary width. We encamped here; but after three days stay the waters did not abate. Being impatient to proceed on my journey, I constructed a raft, composed of large trees, with which my waggons and goods were at
several

several turns taken over. The cattle swam the stream; and neither they, the people, or effects, sustained the least injury.

We now continued our rout; and travelling fourteen leagues in two days, brought us to Muscle Bay; this in the charts is called *Bay Saint Blaise*. It has a flat shore of small extent; shallops may come in with safety.

The horrid howling of the hyænas at night, frightened our cattle; but by the means of fires about our camp, we kept them at a distance.

Leaving Muscle Bay on the 7th in the morning, in about five hours we reached the river *Kleen Brack*; which we immediately crossed. The next day we arrived at the great river of the same name; the water of

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which

which is brackish, from the tide flowing a considerable way up. We waited till the ebb, and crossed it without danger.

We had now a steep mountain to ascend, when, after much care and difficulty in reaching its summit, we were presented with a view of a beautiful country; eastward a chain of hills covered with wood, bounded the prospect; underneath which was an immense valley that reached to the sea, with fine pasturage decorated with flowers. This country is called *Auteniquas*, or loaded with honey; in fact it abounds in bees and flowers. My people wished to continue here a time; but being contrary to my plan, I proceeded toward the river *Wet Els*.

On the ninth, having crossed several small rivulets, whose waters

ters have the colour of Madeira, and taste of iron, we came to the last port maintained by the company. Mr. Mulder, the commander, received me with great kindness

It being necessary for me to remain some days here, I was obliged to break in on my established plan. Mr. Mulder was going to the Cape, and I thought it an excellent opportunity of remitting to Mr. Boers a part of my collection; I accordingly sent him an hundred curious birds, and a box of insects. I also engaged three more Hottentots, made an addition to my team of oxen, and purchased a young horse.

On the 9th of February I took leave of Mr. and Mrs. Mulder. I was now about to bid adieu to every vestige of human government,
and

and mingle with those beings who live in a state of nature.

I sent part of my people before me to cut down trees, clear away shrubs, and make other necessary preparations for pitching my tent; which was carefully executed.

I well knew that in the wood where I had fixed my camp, there were *Touracos*. I soon perceived some; which I pursued in vain, being never within reach of my gun. One day, after dinner, I saw one hopping from bough to bough; I pursued it with eagerness, but he seemed to elude all my efforts. I followed it a considerable way, firing at random, and at last had the pleasure to see him fall. I marked the place where he fell, and ran among the brambles to pick it up, but no *Touraco* was to be found.

I con-

I continued my search for more than half an hour, till no *Touraco* could be seen. I was so much vexed for the loss of the bird, that I stamped with my feet, and struck the ground with my gun.—On a sudden it gave way, and I fell into a pit twelve feet deep; it was one of those covered snares which the Hottentots dig for wild beasts, particularly the elephant.

As soon as I had in some measure recovered from my fright, I began to think of the means of extirpating myself. The approach of night began to fill me with terror. I now thought of digging an ascent on one side with my hanger; but I soon laid that thought aside, and charging my gun, fired it repeatedly. It was heard at my camp: for I presently heard the report of two pieces, and made no doubt but my people were seeking me. I con-

tinued firing at intervals to direct them to the spot.

Having discovered me, they cut a large bough, and put it down into the pit, by which means I presently got out. This accident did not make me forget the *Touraco*. My dogs having accompanied the Hottentots, I thought by their assistance, I might be able to discover it. I was not disappointed; they found it in a thicket of brambles.

This bird has a melody in its notes, and is beautiful in its form and plumage; a tuft of green, bordered with white, adorns its head, its body is a bright green, its eyes a brilliant red, with a streak over them of the perfect white. Its wings were a beautiful purple, changing to a violet, according to the light it is viewed in.

The

The incessant rains at the latter end of the month, prevented us from continuing our journey, and obliged us to leave the wood for a more elevated situation. The oxen having left the camp, I knew not where to send for them, or how to regain them; my Hottentots, worn out with fatigue, murmured; our provisions began to be scarce, and little or no game to be got.

In this distress I summoned all my resolution, begged of my people to look out for the dispersed cattle, being determined to risk crossing the torrent; and one of the Hottentots, in seeking for the safest place to cross at, saw a buffalo in the water, which, from the freshness of its appearance, might probably have been drowned the preceding night.

Nothing

Nothing could have been more welcome to us than this news ; being reduced to the greatest extremity for want of food. We dragged the animal on shore, where we cut him up ; the principal part was carried to the tent. The dogs, who were reduced to mere skeletons, found, in what we left behind, sufficient to satisfy their hunger, and returned home with extended sides.

The end of March brought favourable weather, the waters abated, and all our oxen, except four, were recovered.

I prepared, without delay, to quit this unlucky place, where there are plenty of hyænas and tygers, but no lions.

Having pitched my tent on a hill about three leagues distant, called *Pampoen Kraal*, which pleased

ed me much. At a small distance was an eminence covered with a thicket, thirty or forty feet in diameter. I determined to make it my residence, and had an opening about seven feet high, and sufficiently wide, cleared to the center. Having formed two complete squares, in one I placed a table and a chair, and called it my workshop; the other I adorned with my kitchen utensils, and looked on as my dining room.

On the 18th of April I received an express from Mr. Mulder, who had returned from the Cape, and brought answers to my letters. He proposed to meet me for the purpose of a sea fishing, and to bring nets, and every convenience for a fortnight's residence on the shore; adding, that his wife would accompany him.

This

This news gave me pleasure, nor were they long after their messenger, bringing with them the second commandant; their waggons, with the nets, &c. being sent to the sea side.

I loaded one of my waggons with a tent and some empty casks, which I thought might be serviceable in our fishery; and having arrived on the coast, we cast our nets several times, with very little success; this determined us to go to a small lake at a little distance. Here having pitched our tents in a convenient place, some of our men in cutting rushes, stumbled on a buffalo; the animal, as much frightened as the men, rushed out hastily, and overturned some horses. The alarm became general, every one making the best use of their legs. The animal, not knowing how to escape, stood motionless in the
nook

nook of a rock. I drew as near him as I dared, and fired; he ran furiously towards me, but my second shot intimidated him; when turning aside, he discharged his fury on an ox, by striking him twice on the belly with his horns; he then ran off, and we lost sight of him.

The company could not be persuaded to continue here; we resolved therefore to return to our former situation. Here we took large quantities of fish, and I ordered my men to salt and fill my barrels with them. Mr. Mulder did the same. On my return to my camp I found every thing in order.

My cart being inconvenient, I set about altering it, and in less than a fortnight it was converted into a four wheeled waggon.

On

On the 13th of April, every thing being in readiness for the pursuit of my journey, I gave a last look on *Pampeon Kraal*. We passed a very rapid torrent called *le trou de Kayman* (Cayman's hole) with great difficulty, and also a river which the Hottentots call *Kra-kede-kaw* (Maids-ford).

After eight hours march we arrived at the *Swart river* (Black river), which we crossed upon rafts; and discovering the marks of Buffalo's feet, I resolved to stop here, and had the satisfaction to kill one myself, and my Hottentot killed another. These we cut into small pieces, and having salted them, hung them to dry in the air. The kites and vultures, particularly the former, plundered us without mercy; and had it not been for a sharp look, not a single piece would have been preserved to us.

After

After packing our provisions, we left Black river, and at two leagues distance crossed the *Gaucom*, and at two leagues further reached the *Nysena*; here I saw an agreeable spot for my camp. A large square meadow, and a forest of trees on the south, a river on the north, and game sporting on the borders, yet I was not tempted to stop. We crossed the river, and with some difficulty ascended a high mountain. We continued our journey for four hours and a half, and then stopped at a little rivulet about three leagues distant from the sea. Observing a considerable quantity of fish come up with the tide, I barred the stream with a large net, which Mr. Mulder had given me; we caught a great quantity. Here I found several small white herons. I also saw the large white Egret or Heron; it is very scarce. These
woods

woods abound with game, buffaloes, and some elephants.

I remained here till the 13th, when by dreadful roads we crossed the forest of *Le Port*, and in seven hours reached the *Witte Dreft*. I saw a few plantations; but the distance, and almost insurmountable difficulties prevented these Colonists from either seeing the Cape, or sending their cattle thither. As I proceeded, I was suddenly taken ill; and the gloomy idea seized me, that I should leave my ashes at two thousand leagues distance from my family.

My indisposition stopt my journey; however I visited the environs of the place as well as I was able; but my illness increasing, I was no longer able to quit my waggon. My Hottentots were similarly afflicted, and concluded
from

from thence we owed our disorders to the quantities of salt fish we had eaten; I gave orders for all that remained to be burnt.

After twelve days violent perspiration, I began to recover, taking moderate exercise; by which means I soon re-established my health, and my Hottentots recovered in a similar manner.

Being now recovered, I resumed hunting. In my first excursion I found we were flanked by a river called *Queur Boom*, which joins the *Witte Drest* a league before it reaches the sea: in this neighbourhood was a troop of about twenty-five or thirty bubales, enclosed by the sea, two rivers and our camp and waggons. None of them escaped us; and their skins, when joined together, formed an excellent tilt for our new waggon.

In the vicinity of the Bay of Agoa, improperly called Blettingburg's Bay, into which the waters of the *Queur Boom* and *Wtite Drest* fall, I furnished my collection with several fine birds; but above all was the beautiful kind of Balbuzard, which is a species of the eagle, and near as large as the ospray. One day, having crossed *Queur Boom*, and was walking on its opposite bank, I saw a number of fishes heads, and the bones of young gazells; I concluded this was a resort of the Balbuzards, and was confirmed in my opinion, when I saw two rising in the air to a great height. I instantly concealed myself in a thick bush, but it was of no effect; for instead of descending, they entirely disappeared.

The next morning I again placed myself in the thicket, which I
never

never quitted till the evening, without having seen them return. Wearied with this loss of time, I went home, and returned the following day before day-break; but they did not make their appearance. I passed the second day with no better success; but about 12 o'clock on the third day of my watch, I saw the female hovering over a tree with a large fish in her beak, and discharging my piece, she instantly fell; however in a moment she renewed her flight, passed the river, and dropped on the opposite shore. I rushed into the river; nor was I sensible of my folly, till I found myself in the middle of the stream, with the water to my chin, and totally unacquainted with swimming. Nevertheless I had the good fortune to gain the other side. I caught up the Balbuzard, and hastened homewards.

On my arrival, I was informed that some of my Hottentots were in pursuit of a buffalo; they soon after returned, loaded with the quarters of the animal. The of-fal I ordered to be laid in a convenient place to attract the birds of prey; it soon procured me a male Balbuzard, which does not differ from the female, except in being one third smaller: a general case among carnivorous birds.

While I was busy in dissecting the Balbuzard, a Gazell, called a *Bos Bock*, crossed my camp with amazing swiftness; my dogs pursued, but it gained the river side, and plunged into the stream. Nine wild dogs, which had been in pursuit of her, appeared, but on seeing us, they ran off; my dogs, who had followed the Gazell into the water, were now dragging it alive on the shore. I wished

wished to tame this gazell; but it was so very timorous, that I afterwards thought it best to kill and eat it.

Until the 25th of June we frequently removed our camp to different places upon the Bay. I then resolved to continue my journey; but on reconnoitering the passes, found it impossible for my wag-gons to pass, and was therefore obliged to return to the wood of *Du Port*, which we had left a month before.

As I was walking along, I saw the mark of an elephant's foot, so fresh, that I was certain it could not have been there more than a day.

Having selected four of my best marksmen for elephant hunters, we sat out, taking with us a small stock of provisions, and followed the tract

track of the animal till night came on, when we made a large fire, supped gaily, and laid ourselves down to sleep upon the earth. At day-break I hastened my companions, who were soon ready; and giving them a glass of brandy each, they followed me with pleasing alacrity.

The second day was nearly the same as the former, but we had hardly been asleep an hour, when we were alarmed by a buffalo, who, attracted by the light, had drawn very near us. This animal, who is much terrified at the sight of a man, no sooner perceived us than he ran away as fast as possible. The noise he made among the bushes waked us all; I ran to my gun, but was too late, and laid myself down again to sleep.

The

The adventures of the next were interesting. After some hours of fatigue, walking among thorns and briars, we arrived at an open part of the forest. Here we stopped, while one of the Hottentots climbed a tree; when, after looking about for some time, he told us he saw elephants. We now consulted on the best means to be pursued, and it was agreed, that he who had discovered them, should lead us through the bushes as near as possible to the place. I soon got near enough to one of these enormous beasts, and instantly firing my carbine lodged the contents in his head; he staggered and fell; the rest about thirty in number ran from the place as fast as possible.

I was examining that I had killed, when another passed just by me, which had received a shot
from

from one of the people; and by the blood that streamed, I judged it was dangerously wounded. I pursued him immediately; it would have lain down, but was prevented by our firing. We followed him into the thicket, wherein there was a number of trees, which had fallen through age. The animal, feeling the smart of his wounds, grew outrageous, and ran furiously at one of the Hottentots: another immediately fired at him, crying out at the same time, "Take care of yourselves."

At that moment I was not more than twenty yards from the enraged animal, with a gun, weighing thirty pounds, besides ammunition. I ran, but the beast gained ground upon me; my Hottentots, except one, had abandoned me, and the only chance I had of escaping, was to fall down by the trunk of a great tree

tree that lay on the ground. I had scarce time even to accomplish this, before the animal ran over it; but being frightened by the noise made by my people, he stopped to listen. I remained immoveable, every moment expecting death. The elephant now turning suddenly about, stepped a second time over the trunk of the tree, within twelve feet of where I lay, without perceiving me. I now got on my feet, and sending another ball after him, he continued his way, and disappeared.

The report of my piece was a universal signal of joy; and I was presently surrounded by my people. The affectionate *Klaas* knew not how to express his satisfaction; he pressed me eagerly in his arms. From this time I experienced the pleasures of being beloved without any view of interest. *Klaas* was
now

now my brother, the confidant of my hopes and fears.

We soon found the elephant I had shot in the head; the vultures had already begun to devour him. However, my Hottentots being hungry, dressed several slices for themselves, and part of the trunk for me. I afterwards eat part of the feet of this animal, which are very delicious. The forest being wonderfully stocked with elephants and buffaloes, we, in order to prevent being surprised, kept awake all night; and we spent the whole day in observations on the numberless tracks of these animals.

Having got to my camp, *Swan-pool* informed me, he had been disturbed every night, during my absence, by the elephants. This was enough for me; and, after giving

ing my men time to recover from their fatigue, we sat out. When we had ascended the side of a hill, I saw four in a thicket. I approached them with caution, and when I thought myself sufficiently near, I fired at the head of the nearest, which instantly fell; and in ten minutes the other three were in the same situation as their companion. One of my Hottentots shot a small one, about the size of a calf.

On returning to my camp, I saw a man on horseback advancing towards me. I stopped till he came up; he proved to be a messenger from Mr. Boers, who delivered to me a packet from that gentleman, containing letters from my wife and other friends. Finding all well, I felt myself happy; I forgot I was in Africa.

I immediately answered them, dating mine from *The camp of Auteniquas, on the day when we killed four elephants.*—This night I regaled my Hottentots with tobacco and brandy; and Kees, who usually sat by my side, had a good allowance of milk. He licked his lips for some; I ordered him a little, which being put into a plate (out of which he usually drank, to prevent the liquor from getting up his nostrils); just as he was going to seize it, I put to it a piece of lighted paper, unseen. It immediately blazed; Kees screaming and chattering, ran away as fast as he could to his bed. I could neverafter make him taste his favourite liquor; shewing him the bottle was enough to make him chatter and grind his teeth. The next morning I gave Mr. Boers's messenger my dispatches, and he set out on his return to the Cape.

We

We took such parts of the elephants as we wanted, particularly the fat, for greasing our wheels and traces, and for burning. I had no cotton, and was obliged to make wicks of my cravats.

We sat out on our return to Cayman's Hole, and having arrived at the foot of the mountain called the Devil's Head, I took the road to Mr. Mulder's, dispatching with him part of my collection, desiring him to remit it to Mr. Boers; I soon after took leave, and continued my journey. The next morning we climbed the mountain, but the descension seemed so difficult as to alarm us; it was a Scylla on one side, on the other a Charybdis. Well knowing we must pass it, I prepared for the dangerous trial; and after much labour and fatigue, descended in safety.

I now found myself in a barren desert, without even the appearance of verdure; we continued our march for seven hours, crossing the river *Queur Boom*. After a melancholy encampment, we continued our rout, and in twenty-two hours crossed *Krom River*. In this valley I left one of my horses, that was sick and unable to travel. I do not know the exact length of this dreary place; but it took up forty-six hour to pass it. At seven or eight leagues distance, we crossed *Diep river*; ten leagues from which, on the 7th of August, we encamped on the banks of the *Gamtoos*. We had now a very steep mountain to pass, and before we reached it two of my oxen were killed by the pointed rocks.

Having made our way over the mountain, we encamped in a beautiful country. On the first night I
heard

heard singing and other noises, expressive of mirth; the question was, whether these sounds proceeded from Hottentots or Caffrees; supposing it from the latter, they were to be feared. I was of the same colour as their enemies, and thought that was sufficient to make me become their victim. I put my people under arms, and moved towards the noise with great caution. We now discovered some fires; I sent two of my people to reconnoitre, who soon returned and told me, it was only a hoord of Hottentots. We passed away the remainder of the night without interruption.

I was awaked by the warbling of birds, among which were the bright copper coloured Starling, Crested Cuckoo, and the King Fisher. While I amused myself

with shooting, my Hottentots visited those who had alarmed us last night; a friendship was formed; they gave us milk, several sheep, and two oxen for my waggon: in return I presented them with knives, steels, and tobacco.

These people informed me, that I might find Hippotamuses at the mouth of the river. I passed days and nights in looking after them; but could never obtain the satisfaction of seeing one.

My kindness had gained the good-will of our visitors; and they consulted me upon several occasions.

The hyænas were continually thinning their flocks; they complained to me of it. I fixed the next morning for the purpose of hunting

hunting them. By break of day upwards of a hundred of the hoord attended, well armed with bows and arrows, and we went out attended by my dogs, and shot three of these savage animals; which so deterred what others there might be, that they never made their appearance while I continued in this place.

About a week after, in the middle of the night a troop of elephants past our camp: the Hottentots called them red elephants, and said, they were the most dangerous of the species. Red Elephants! the very name gave me a desire to see them. I accordingly ordered my Hottentots to gain the opposite side of the wood, and set fire to the dried grass, while I and some of my best marksmen posted ourselves on a rock. They had no sooner obeyed my orders, than
the

whole troop took the alarm and approached the spot where we were stationed. We bestowed a dozen discharges on them ; and they ran away with precipitation. I began to take pleasure in this kind of hunting, which I found more diverting than dangerous.

While I continued in this Canton, I frequently varied my encampment, and added thereby considerably to my collection.

On the 11th of September, at six in the morning, we decamped. The hoord, our good-natured neighbours, were loath to bid us adieu, and accompanied us to the river *Louri*, four leagues from the *Gamtoos*. Here we took leave of our good friends, but one woman, whom I afterward named *Ragel*, accompanied us, and served me

with

with great fidelity to the end of these travels.

We continued in our way, till overtaken by a storm, which obliged us to halt at *Galgebos*; when it subsided, we travelled about two leagues further, passed the river *Van Slaade*, and encamped on the banks of a lake, which afforded us an ample supply of fine water. The second day from our arrival, a violent storm prevented our departure; the hail-stones were of a wonderful size, and greatly annoyed our cattle. At length, the weather changing, we left the Lake, and, after crossing two rivers, the little and the great *Swaar Kops*, fixed our camp on the banks of the latter. Here I perceived the signs of a foot of an animal unknown to me; my people said, it was that of a rhinoceros. I followed the tract; but night coming on,

on, I returned without making any further discovery. Near this place there was a hoord, whose kraal consisted of nine or ten huts, containing about fifty or sixty people. The Hottentots advised me not to pass the river *Boshies-Man*, as I should by that means avoid a large troop of Caffrees, who carried destruction wherever they came. I assembled my people, in order to advise on the best methods to be taken; the result accorded with my intention, which was to keep strict watch day and night, for fear of surprize, to keep our cattle within the camp, and our pieces always at hand. I now mounted my horse, and followed by some of my Hottentots, scoured the environs, and saw nothing that would give us any uneasiness. We raised our camp, and quitted *Swaar Kops*; the hoord of Hottentots begged permission to follow us, and

and to put themselves under our protection. I granted their request, and in less than two hours, the huts were unfurnished, the effects packed, and placed on the backs of oxen. I then ordered them to set off, escorted by two of my Hottentots, well armed; my waggons followed after, guarded by the rest of my men. I rode on my best horse, armed at all points, galloping from one side to the other, being fearful of an ambuscade. We had not travelled far, before our dogs, who were barking about the thickets, made a sudden stand, and began barking; on examination, I found they had surrounded a porcupine. I shot it; it is excellent eating, and served at the first tables at the Cape.

After a short march, we halted, to gather salt, which we found on the banks of a salt water lake. An hour

hour after we stopped on the borders of the *Kouga*, where we pitched our camp. Here we found a number of small, but excellent tortoises. We remained here till the 20th; and just as our provisions were expended, I was fortunate enough to kill three buffalos and two bubales, also, some pintadoes, or speckled fowl.

We continued our journey in the same order, and had not proceeded far, when our advanced guard halted, and sent me word they had discovered the track of human feet. I hastened to the place, and examined the marks; they did not appear quite fresh; yet it was a serious discovery, and not to be neglected. We accordingly folded our cattle, and put our camp in the best posture of defence.

Myself

Myself and two of my best marksmen, followed the track for more than an hour, which brought us to a place where we found the remains of an unextinguished fire, and some bones of a sheep, perfectly fresh; by which it was evident, that savages had passed the night there. We now retired to our camp, and passed the night undisturbed. On the following day the rain obliged us to keep within our tents. On the morrow we continued our rout, and were under the necessity of crossing the *Kouga* fourteen times; which obliged us, from the fatigue it occasioned, to halt early. We passed the night by the *Droge River*, (Dry River); during which we heard the lions roar at a distance.

On the 23d, after six hours march, we came to a fine river, called *Sondag*, whose waters were

I very

very high ; we therefore prepared rafts, and embarked our waggons and effects by parcels, and half the people, who on their landing encamped under the conduct of *Swanepoel*. The beasts swam over, and on the following day I joined them with the rest ; and there we continued to the end of the month.

During this stay, I had nearly lost my poor *Kees* ; and had just set down to dinner, when I heard the warbling of a bird, that I was unacquainted with. I snatched up my gun, left my tent, and in a few minutes returned with the bird : during which *Kees* had dispatched every morsel of my intended meal. I had punished him the night before for stealing my supper, and could not suppose he would have forgot it so soon : he disappeared, and was not seen till the third day after, when one of my men fetching water, discovered him in the

the trees. I immediately went in search of him; I heard him scream, and soon after perceived the rogue in a tree, almost concealed by a large branch. I entreated him to come down, but he would not. I climbed the tree, and he then suffered himself to be taken.

The *Sondag* is increased by several small streams and discharges itself into the sea, about ten leagues below my camp.

On the first of October we continued our journey, and at four o'clock took our station by the side of a lake. The hyænas and lions were this night particularly troublesome. We were obliged to keep continual watch, firing at them very often. At day break we saw a number of *Spring Bock*; our provision being low, I determined to hunt all day, and had

the good fortune to kill seven of them.

The day following we set out sooner than usual, on account of the badness of the water; in a few hours we procured better from a branch of the *Sondag*.

The fourth day we travelled but three leagues; the heat was intolerable, and the cattle fatigued. On the fifth we set forward at three in the morning, and at seven reached an abandoned habitation; the heat being still great, we took up our stay here for a while, and then continued our march for four hours.

On the morrow we passed two other deserted habitations; and in four hours we arrived on the banks of the little river *Vogel*, where we stopped to bait our oxen.

At

At twelve the sky overcast. I profited by this circumstance, hoping to gain *Agter-Bruyntjes-Hoogte*; but meeting with a lake, we stopped and encamped.

During the night our fires were perceived by some Hottentots; as they approached us they were discovered by my dogs. My people were persuaded they were Caffres, and fear presented to them their dreaded enemy, from whom they wished to fly. *Klaas* and myself were exasperated at their cowardice, even old *Swanepoel* joined in endeavouring to inspire courage into the fearful Hottentots. In the midst of our confusion, a voice was heard, in pretty good Dutch, entreating us to call off our dogs; this we did, and discovered the authors of this dreadful alarm, to be a small body of
I 3 peaceful

peaceful Hottentots, about fifteen in number, besides women and children. They told me the Caffrees were raging about the country, vowing destruction to all that fell in their way.

Having learned all I could from them, I was not inclined to think the Caffrees so ferocious as they were described; and I was soon convinced that the calumnies with which they were loaded, were false. I wished much to traverse *Caffraria*; but on disclosing my wishes, not one seconded my intention. All persuasion was useless to this terror-struck people. I was therefore sparing of my reproaches; but I was far from being so to the Colonists, whose assistance I requested two days after.

I got information, that an English ship, the *Grosvenor* East Indiaman

diaman had been wrecked in the coast about six weeks before ; that part of the crew and passengers escaping the sea, had unfortunately fell into the hands of the *Caffrees*, by whom they were barbarously destroyed ; some few it was supposed had escaped, and were now wandering on the coasts.

My heart was wounded by this affecting relation. I was not more than fifty leagues from the place. Various means occurred to me to assist these unhappy sufferers. I proposed them to my people ; but my proposals were refused. I offered presents, entreaties and threatenings ; but they were of equal weight. To the latter I had nearly fallen a sacrifice. I was obliged to clap a pistol to the head of one of the most refractory ; and had it not been for three of my bravest fellows, I must have fallen a sacrifice.

fice. The Hoord, which I had permitted to accompany us, told me they were *free*, and would immediately depart.

By the representations of *Klaas* and myself, two of my people were brought over to accompany us. *Swanepoel* was one; but four were insufficient. The night was far advanced, and I retired to my tent.

At break of day I was informed that the strangers were moving, with all their stock. I took no notice of this, but prepared also to depart. In four hours we traversed the mountain *Agter Bruyntjes-Hoogte*; after which we travelled four hours more, and then encamped for the night.

We returned at day-break, and in three hours we saw *Bruyntjes-Hoogte*;

Hoogte ; the inhabitants of which perceived me at a distance. I spurred my horse, and soon was amongst them. I told them my name, that I travelled by order of the Government, to whom I must give an account of my discoveries ; the conclusion of my discourse had great weight with them, and they received me in a very friendly manner.

After a good deal of conversation, I expressed my surprise that none of them had attempted to relieve those miserable Europeans, whose situation I found they were not unacquainted with. I told them I now hoped to find some whose hearts would prompt them to go with me towards the coast where the vessel was lost ; as the Dutch Government would no doubt amply reward those who dared so great an enterprize ; and also added,
that

that as the vessel probably was not yet gone to pieces, they might find effects enough in the wreck to enable them to pass their lives comfortably. The latter motive seemed to have due weight; it procured the following answer, "That if things were as I had said, it was right to assist these unhappy people, who were in truth their fellow creatures and brethren."

One of the most cunning poltroons of the set, whom avarice alone interested, added, "That the *Cassrees* had probably stripped the vessel of all that was worth looking after; that the risk they run in leaving their wives and children to the mercy of the savages, would not be counterbalanced by any uncertain prospect of amending their circumstances.

'Tis

'Tis true, there was not much to tempt them to undertake the journey, as they could have no opportunity of purloining cattle from their enemies, having divided twenty thousand in a short time; the few that remained were secured, their real owners having drove them into places of perfect security.

I used every endeavour in my power to combat the reasons of this man, but in vain; his avaricious arguments doing away every thing humanity could urge; and as they could not be assured of gain, they one and all refused their assistance. I was fearful, lest their conduct should influence my people; therefore let the discourse subside, and continued my journey.

There are among the Colonists a mixt race, between a White and
a Hot-

a Hottentot; these people are very courageous and enterprising, ready to march against the Caffrees. A knowledge of this induced me to leave three of my best men, to try by every means they were masters of, to engage some of them who knew the country and the language of the Caffrees, to follow me. I appointed the river *Klein Vis* for our place of rendezvous, which we reached and crossed after three hours travel through bad roads. We rested here for that night, which was by no means quiet; the barking of our dogs rendering it impossible to sleep. At sun rise I saw at some distance my Hottentots, they brought with them three strangers, one of whom, named *Hans*, a Mulatto, had lived a good while among the Caffrees, and spoke their language fluently.

What

What I learned from this man confirmed me in the opinion I had before formed, that the *Caffrees* are in general harmless and peaceable; but being continually pillaged, and oftentimes murdered by the Whites, they were obliged to act in their own defence. That the Colonists often made pretences of losing cattle, purposely to make inroads into the *Caffrees* settlements, extirminating the people, and stealing their property. *Hans* assured me that last year he was an eye witness of the following instance of inhumanity.

In destroying a small settlement of the *Caffrees*, a child about twelve years old escaped the general carnage by concealing himself; but being discovered by one of the abominable villains, was claimed as his prize; the commander of this cruel enterprize laid claim also to the little prisoner; the Colonist refused to deliver him up,

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which so enraged the leader, that he instantly lodged the contents of his piece in the breast of the little victim. Were I so disposed, I need not stop here; I have been told of other actions of these barbarous Colonists, superior in point of cruelty to that I have now mentioned, and shall only add, that the greatest part by far of all the settlers either in Africa or America, from what I have seen, or from what I have been told, are too much of the foregoing description.

Hans gave me every satisfaction in his power relating to *Caffraria*; informing me the spot we were now upon formerly belonged to a Chief, who now resided thirty leagues to the North, called King *Pharoo*. He also persuaded me to go forward, telling me that far from danger from the people they would be glad to see me. However, upon reflection,

reflection, I thought I would send a deputation to King *Pharoo*, and by that means neither endanger my person or property.

Hans, on my proposing this expedition, accepted the commission, and promised to persuade two or three of his friends to accompany him. I likewise proposed sending two of my Hottentots (*Adam* and *Slanger*); they were to give the King an account of all my proceedings for the last eleven months since I left the Cape. I also charged my messengers to say that my intentions of viewing the country were intirely innocent. Having then instructed my deputies, I charged my own Hottentots with a secret commission, which was, if possible, to bring back with them some *Cas-frees*. Having stocked them with provisions, I gave them presents for the Prince: they bad me fare-

well, promising to return to *Koks Kraal* as soon as possible; where I was to wait their arrival.

Next morning we continued our journey, and in three hours arrived at the river *Groot Vis*. While the usual preparations were making for our security, I walked on the banks of the river, and saw the remains of a *Kraal* of *Caffrees*.

The night of the 10th passed tolerably quiet, though some lions approached our encampment. In the morning my Hottentots who had been to fetch water, told me they had discovered recent tracks of the Hippopotamuses and Cou-dous. Our provisions being scarce, I determined to give this day to chase; I therefore sent my people to the banks of the river to discover, if possible, the retreat of these animals. I went a different way in
search

search of Coudous, or other game; but saw only gazells and ostriches, and being on foot, it was impossible to approach them. I now suddenly perceived a group of seven Coudous: I approached them with precaution, followed by the man I had brought with me. I ordered him to fire first, and at the report put them all to the run; however by good fortune, they passed me, and I shot one of them.

We carried our provision to the camp, the kettles were filled in an instant; and in less than two hours three parts of our meat had disappeared. The Hottentots that I had sent to discover the Hippotamus, returned and informed me they had discovered one under some reeds; that they had fired several shot at it, in order to make it shift its situation; and that they

had seen many buffalos, but could not killed any.

The eleventh night we were visited by lions, hyænas, and jackalls, which alarmed our cattle very much; and kept us on the watch till two o'clock in the morning.—The man whom I had sent to view *Koks Kraal* returned, and brought me a favourable account of it: we sat off, and reached it in three hours.

On one side was a river of good water, near which I ordered my large tent to be pitched: a division made for my horses, and another for the sheep and goats, surrounding the whole with a fence of thorny bushes, that it was impossible any wild beast could penetrate it; and by which means my flocks were in perfect safety in my little fortress.

Next

Next day I shot a parroquet of a species that has not been yet described. It is about the size of the grey parrot of Guinea; its colour green of different shades. We were visited also this day by a great number of bawian monkies, of the same kind as my friend *Kees*. These animals appeared astonished at seeing so many people; and still more so, when they perceived *Kees* among us; who answered them in their own language. I held *Kees* by the paw, and though he appeared to know and talk to his fellows, he would by no means go near them. I pulled him forwards; he resisted, got away from me, and hid himself in my tent.

On the thirteenth in the morning I was awakened by a bird, whose note resembled nothing that I ever heard before. I arose immediately, and discovered it to be the
Crapaud

Crapaud Volent, or (Flying Toad). This bird is very different from that of the same name in Europe; it warbles articulately, and in a manner not to be imitated. This difference, as well as its outward appearance, proves it to be of another species.

I killed several birds, a small kind of *barbus*, hitherto unknown, and a cuckoo; which from its piercing note I named the Cryer; also the Golden Cuckoo, of Buffon.

In one of my rambles I saw a flight of crows and vultures, rising and circling in the air, and making a great noise. I presently discovered the cause; 'twas the remains of a buffalo that had been killed by a lion. From the appearance of the field, the combat must have been terrible. In my
way

way to the camp I was startled by a gun, that was fired close to me; I knew it must proceed from one of my men; it did so. Upon questioning him, he told me he had been watching a Hoppopotamus ever since day-break, and did not doubt but he had now killed it; however, it never rose, though its blood was visible upon the water.

On the fourteenth at night, such great quantities of rain fell, as extinguished our fires. Stormy nights in African deserts, present a strong image of desolation and horror. The howling of wild beasts, the dismal plaints of domestic animals, the loud and frequent thunder, the quick and vivid lightening, added to the hollow echo of the mountains, all concur to render such times truly dreadful. The following day being rainy, I did not go out, but employed myself in regulating

gulating my recent collection. The setting sun seemed to promise a fine morning; and it was so.

We were on foot by day-break; and having sent three men to hunt for buffalos, gazells, &c. myself and seven Hottentots departed, leaving the rest of my people with *Swanepoel* to take care of the camp.

After coasting the river for three hours, we saw the foot marks of a Hippopotamus; we followed the track, and presently saw it raise its head out of the water to breathe. Two of my people now swam over the water, with a view to oblige it to keep the middle of the stream; the scheme answered, and watching the opportunity of its rising, one of my marksmen directed his shot with such precision, as to wound it severely. The pain caused it to rear itself half out of the water,

water, and at that moment I lodged a ball in its breast. It disappeared for several minutes, when, after which, we saw it dead, and driving with the current: my people plunged into the river, and hauled it on shore.

The legs of the Hippopotamus are short, in proportion to its size, which was an advantage to us, as we could roll it on the ground like a large cask. It measured from the tip of the nose to the tail ten feet seven inches, and eight feet eleven in circumference. Its bent tusks were five inches long, and one inch in diameter in the thickest part. We got our prize home the next day, by the help of my oxen; and the three Hottentots that I had sent in search of game, returned successful, having killed two Gnous and three Gazells. The weather being very hot, we passed
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the night in cutting up and salting our provisions.

On the eighteenth we passed the night very indifferently, the lions and hyænas still continuing to visit us. I did not get any sleep till very late; when I got up I was surprised to find twenty *Gonaquias* within the camp. The Chief, whose name was Haabas, approached me first, the women followed, decorated to the utmost, fresh greased, and powdered with *Boughew* (or Bucku); a red dust, made from a root of that name; in addition to this their faces were painted in different forms. They presented me with ostrich eggs, milk, and a young lamb. Their Chief also presented me with a fine plume of ostrich feathers, which I immediately placed in my hat, and he seemed much pleased with the compliment.

I then

I then gave him several pounds of tobacco, which he immediately distributed among his people, keeping only an equal portion for himself. Finding this, I further presented him (for his own use) with a knife, a steel, a box of tinder, and a necklace of glass beads. To the women I gave necklaces, and brass wire for bracelets.

I ordered a sheep to be killed, and a good quantity of Hippopotamus to be dressed, to regale our visitors, who gave into an excess of gaiety. My Hottentots, not to be outdone in gallantry, entertained them with music, sounding the *Goura*, the *Foum-Foum*, and the *Rabouquin*; nor was the *Jews-harp* forgotten, this new instrument pleasing our visitors very much.

The day passed in mirth and feasting. I reminded my people of

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gathering

gathering wood for fires, which was soon performed, the Gonaquais being of the party. I permitted them to stay all night, assigning them a spot at some distance from the camp; they danced till midnight, and retired fatigued to rest.

I went out early on the following morning, and returned about ten o'clock with some birds; among them was a *Gobe Mouch* (Fly-Catcher). This charming bird is of a fine red, with a long tail; its head ornamented with a beautiful tuft of the same colour with the body, but brighter.

After carrying home my birds, I visited the *Gonaquais*, and gave them their breakfasts. Haabas requested me to place my camp near his boord, where I should find a great variety of birds; the distance was about two leagues, and I promised
to

to visit him in a few days. They now prepared to depart. I made them all dine with me; after which I gave Haabas a small quantity of tobacco, which pleased him much. At length, well satisfied with each other, these good people quitted me. I caused them to be accompanied by one of my people, whom I charged to learn the road, and to make some exchanges for sheep.

In the thirty-six hours that I passed with the *Gonaquais*, I remarked that they clucked with their tongues like the other Hottentots; and though their language is very similar, my people could not always understand them. They differed also from my Hottentots, by the darkness of their complexions, their noses were not so flat, and were taller and better proportioned.

The affinity of customs, manners, and dispositions, the neighbourhood

bourhood of Caffraria, and the insight that I afterwards received, convinced me that the hoord of the Gonaquais, which resemble equally the Caffrees and the Hottentots, must have sprung from those two nations.

It was night before the Hottentot whom I had sent with Haabas returned; he was accompanied by two Gonaquais, who brought me a fat ox, which their Chief desired I would accept: with the ox I also received some sheep. I regaled the Gonaquais with tobacco and brandy.

It was one o'clock before I retired to rest, being entertained very much with the detail of the messengers; however I rose with the sun, and went a shooting. Among other birds I shot a cuckoo of a species entirely unknown; there was

was nothing remarkable in his plumage, being entirely of a dark brown; his notes may be heard at a great distance.

As I returned to my camp, I met a number of Bubales; I killed one with my carbine; I covered it with branches, and on my return I sent a Hottentot to fetch it.

In order to amuse my visitors, I employed the rest of the day in preparing my birds. I detained them that night, telling them the day following they should conduct me to their *Hoord*. This information pleased them, and the evening passed away gaily; music (the Jews-harp) was not forgotten. I gave one to each of the *Gonaquais*, for which they were very thankful.

On going to-bed I informed my people of the journey intended for to-morrow, and ordered *Klaas* to have my horses ready at day-break.

On my rising I found one of the Gonaquais was gone to inform Haabas of my intended visit. As I would not present myself to this people like a tired huntsman, I dressed and powdered my hair, put on a brown coat with diamond cut steel buttons, a white waistcoat, and nankeen trowsers, black shoes, and large silver buckles; my knee buckles would have been rendered useless, had I not thought of placing them in my hat, which was also decorated with an elegant plume of ostrich feathers.

Klaas, who attended me on horse-back, had likewise adorned himself

self in the best manner he could; but wishing to distinguish him, I gave him an old pair of red breeches, which were put on with an air of vanity, that shewed the importance he received from this decoration.

Every thing being ready for our departure, I ordered two of my men to go before with their guns, to acquaint the hoord of my coming; and as soon as I had breakfasted set out myself. I stuck my poinard in my button-hole, a pair of pistols in my girdle, another in my saddle, with my double-barrelled gun. *Klaas*, with the carbine, followed me, four of my dogs in his train; and after him four of his fellows, escorting another that carried a box, which contained two red handkerchiefs, some brass rings, knives, and trinkets, intended as presents to the hoord. The Go-naquais

naquais, who remained with us, marched at the head of our cavalcade, as a guide.

When I was within two hundred paces, I fired my piece, directing four of my men to do the same; the two I had sent before answered the salute. This was to all the hoord the signal for exclamations of joy. Every one came out of their huts, and assembled in crowds; but as I drew nearer, the women and children disappeared, and the men were left with their Chief, who advanced to meet me. I dismounted, saying *Tabe, Tabe*, at the same time taking the good old man's hand; he answered my salute.

Every one examined me with great attention, even Haabas, who had never seen me but in my hunting dress, appeared astonished at my decorations, and treated me with great distinction.

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The women now came about me, and presented me with milk; they had put on their best, and their faces were greased, and painted in different forms.

Haabas introduced me to his wife, who was not distinguishable from the rest; I presented her with a red handkerchief, which she received without ceremony, tying it immediately about her head. To this present I added a knife and a steel; but desirous of knowing her taste, I spread all my beads before her; she chose the white and red. I gave her also some large brass wire for bracelets: this last article she appeared to hold in the highest estimation.

I then distributed the remainder of my beads among the women: to the men I gave knives, steels, and tobacco.

The

The wife of Haabas having killed a sheep, to entertain me and my people, I had some slices broiled for my dinner ; and from where I sat I could see my people regaling themselves heartily with the food that had been given them.

Dinner finished, I took leave of my kind entertainers. Klaas and myself being on horseback, reached our waggons some time before my people ; who were accompanied by about twenty Gonaquais men and women. It happened that I had plenty of provisions ; therefore what they consumed would no ways hurt me.

The greater part of the night was passed in singing and dancing ; I had little sleep. I arose at day-break, and this whole day was spent in merriment. The next day the whole hoord came to my camp ;

camp; it was the picture of a village holiday, and I received my visitants with pleasure.

In the afternoon of the second day these good Gonaquais took leave of my camp; and it is here necessary to observe, that the women behaved with the greatest discretion, never coming to the camp without the men, or remaining there after they had left it.

The *Kraal* of *Haabas* is situated about four hundred paces distant from the river *Groot Vis*. A rivulet crosses the *Kraal*, and falls into the river. The huts are about forty in number, forming several half circles; and are united to each other by the little inclosures in which each family keeps its calves and lambs. Besides these inclosures there are three larger ones, strongly fenced, and destined to contain, during

during the night, the general flock of cattle belonging to the *Hoord*.

Three weeks were now elapsed since the departure of my deputies. I had for some time past been reflecting on the causes that could occasion so long an absence, but I kept my suspicions and inquietudes to myself; not wishing to communicate to those who surrounded me, as it would be only furnishing them with arms to combat my design.

The resolution I had formed of penetrating into *Caffraria*, was by no means acceptable to my Hottentots. I sometimes surprised them consulting together on the subject, and murmuring more or less against me; not but I was convinced a sincere attachment to my person, and dread of the dangers I should

should be exposed to, were among the objections they had to the journey.

The conclusion of their consultations seemed to be, that I discovered too much temerity by running thus on the most imminent dangers; that, apparently, I was regardless of my own life, and obstinately bent on leading them to be slaughtered by their enemies; and I had reason to believe they were unanimously resolved to abandon me if I persisted in my design.

The question now seemed to be, how they should put this plan into execution; for of the twenty-five who were dissatisfied, I found scarce two were of a mind. However, I was almost universally accused with having sacrificed my deputies.

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I must confess, I began to think their stay very extraordinary. *Hans* had assured me it only required three or four days, at most, to reach the *Caffree* King *Pharoo*; then giving him as many days to stop there, and an equal number for his return, he had already doubled the time that, by this calculation, appeared necessary for the journey: and I was fearful, that the suspicions of the *Caffrees* had been fatal to my messengers.

My faithful *Klaas* was of opinion, that I should not come to any conclusion, but expect for some time longer the return of *Hans* and his party; letting those depart, who expressed the greatest degree of obstinacy and ill-humour.

All this time I affected an air of tranquillity, and continued my customary hunting; but a kind of involuntary

voluntary inclination usually drew me in that direction from my camp, from whence I so ardently desired to see the return of my people. During the day, I contrived to keep hope alive; but at night my horrors returned with double force; and in the morning I renewed my fruitless melancholy search.

At length *Klaas* (who was almost as unhappy as his master) shut himself up with me in the tent; and, to complete my dejection, assured me, he had given up every expectation of seeing *Hans* or his comrades again. He supposed the *Cassies*, who were now at war, had sacrificed them, for the muskets with which they were furnished. He advised me to remain here no longer, as it would be impossible, after this misfortune, to advance into *Cassaria*.

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I felt the whole force of this reasoning, which I knew to be dictated by honesty; and should, perhaps, have been persuaded to leave *Koks Kraal* the next day, when one of the four Hottentots, who were watching the cattle, entered the tent out of breath, with evident signs of fear in his countenance. He informed me they had discovered a numerous troop of *Caffrees* on the opposite side of the river; that they advanced towards my camp, and were now about to cross the stream.

This news universally alarmed my people. As the hope of seeing my messengers return was not entirely extinguished, my first impulse was to run to meet them; but the consideration of the great number I was assured was approaching, presently destroyed that idea, and done away every flattering illusion.

I im-

I immediately dispatched four of my people, under the command of *Klaas*, to help to collect my cattle, and drive them immediately to the camp. After having performed this service, I wished him to reconnoitre the party, to be satisfied whether they were in such numbers as had been represented; and if necessary to send one of the four to give me every information in his power.

I instantly sat about charging our arms. It was not my intention to commence hostilities; but I determined, if attacked, to make a vigorous resistance.

I now saw the hopes of my future journey, all those pacific measures I had resolved to maintain, on the eve of being irrecoverably destroyed.

I was

I was roused from these disagreeable reflections, by hearing the report of muskets ; as it almost assured me *Hans* and his companions were yet alive. My Hottentots thought differently ; they supposed the discharge we heard was occasioned by *Klaas* and his party being suddenly surprised by the Caffrees ; and that at this moment they were contending.

At the very instant that my imagination began to be infected with this idea, how great was my pleasure to see *Klaas* himself make his appearance from behind a little rock about three hundred paces distant ; and in a few minutes I saw the whole troop advancing peaceably and in good order, towards my camp. I now ordered my people to lay down their arms, and endeavoured to appear calm and composed,

When

When the company had nearly approached me, *Hans* ordered them to stand, and coming up to me alone, told me in a few words, that I was at liberty to travel into *Casfraria*, without the least danger; the nation he had just quitted having declared they should see me with pleasure. He added, I might judge of the favourable opinion they entertained of my designs, by their confidence in visiting me, in order to make an offer of their friendship, and recieve mine. In a word, they had taken this journey on the assurances which *Hans* gave them of a favourable reception at my camp.

Hans then told me, he had not been able to see King *Pharoo*, who was removed thirty leagues from his usual residence; on that account, finding it impossible to obey my orders, he thought it best to
return :

return; that owing to the favourable ideas he had given the *Caffrees* of my character and peaceable disposition, they had offered to accompany him, that they might personally assure me of the general good-will of the country; and that being convinced I was no Colonist, they were ready to receive me as a friend and protector.

The *Caffrees* flattered themselves I should be able to revenge them on a certain Colonist of *Bruyntjes-Hoogte*; of whom they had dreadful complaints to make, and whose very name inspired horror. In the sequel I learned a number of incidents respecting the conduct of this wretch, whose odious name some particular considerations prevent my publishing; but the crimes which have acquired him distinction, even in the class of monsters, are

are of such public notoriety, that every inhabitant of the Cape is acquainted with them. In vain has government summoned him to its tribunal, to render an account of his conduct: situated on the limits of the colonies, the orders of the Governor, or threats of his officers, are but excitements for him to commit new crimes.

I now gave *Hans* orders to bid the *Caffrees* advance; he made a sign with his hand, and I was in an instant surrounded by the whole company, amounting to nineteen men, five women, and two children.

They addressed me altogether: I found I did not understand the *Caffree* language. They examined every thing they could, expressing surprise and satisfaction.

Hans

Hans, however, enlarged on the merits of my double barreled gun and pistols; they begged to see them. I ordered some of them to be produced, and put them myself into their hands, without the least appearance of distrust. They handed them from one to the other, and examined them with great attention; but their curiosity demanded something more than a bare examination; this I was aware of, and chance furnished me with an excellent opportunity of gratifying them.

Two swallows were at this time passing and repassing before us; the two charges I had in the piece brought them down; they were much surprised at my power, looking first at me, and then at my weapon.

I asked

I asked if they would do as much with their *assaygays*? they shook their heads, and confessed that weapon insufficient to kill a bird flying. *Hans* now presented to me a young *Cassree*, accounted among his countrymen as the most expert in throwing the *assaygay* and short *massue*, and that his skill therein had acquired him great reputation. He was about eighteen. I expressed a wish to see his performance; when immediately he prepared himself to exhibit.—I had already separated a sheep from my flock to entertain them; and I thought it would answer the purpose. I therefore bid him try his skill on that. He took five *assaygays* in his left hand, and one in his right; he brandished his weapon, and running four or five steps, threw it with such force, that the head was instantly buried in

in the side of the animal, who fell and died almost immediately.

I was charmed with his success, and his countrymen were no less so. After having drawn his lance from the body of the animal, he plunged the head of it several times into the sand, and afterwards wiped it carefully with grass.

Ever since the arrival of the people, I had been fully employed (through my interpreter *Hans*) in answering the questions their curiosity had prompted them to ask. I wished also to question them, and waited patiently for my turn to interrogate.

I allotted them a place to erect their huts, which they directly set to work upon; and also to roasting the sheep which the young marksman had killed; and in a short time

time nothing remained of it but the bones.

I was not to learn what a powerful agent interest is ; I wished to attach myself to the *Caffrees*. I distributed, therefore, among my visitors some tobacco and trinkets, which they received with great satisfaction ; but what struck their attention most was the iron. They looked on it with ardent eyes, extolled its value above all things ; the hatchets, pick axes, and augers that were in my waggon, they beheld with astonishment, and seemed to covet with a degree of impatience.

In order to diminish their ardour for such thing, I gave orders to have them carefully concealed.

Whoever has read Capt. Cook's Voyages to the South Seas, will
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have remarked, that this celebrated navigator, or his party, scarce ever set foot on shore, without meeting with some loss: they were plundered even in their ships. The Caffrees and Hottentots are not yet arrived at that degree of dexterity of those islanders; but they are not entirely exempt from it.

I observed, with regret, that the spirit of discord was gaining ground in my camp; it was brought on by stopping at *Bruyntjes Hoogte*, where I disclosed my plan of operations, to excite the succour of the Colonists; here my people became frightened by their stories concerning the Caffrees.

For my own part I apprehended no danger. I passed whole days among my *Caffree* visitors, conversing with them, and having many particulars explained respecting their

their nation; which is less known to Europe than even the *Hottentots*. I could discover nothing but good-will and candour among them; and being fully convinced they were in earnest in their expressions of attachment, I was less upon my guard, and admonished my people to appear less suspicious.

They begged of me to accompany them to *Caffraria*; and I was sufficiently inclined to close with their invitation; but I had some powerful reasons which forbade me giving way to their desires. I therefore excused myself by telling them, it would be impossible to begin my journey so soon as they might wish, assuring them I would visit them on the earliest opportunity. They then conferred together, demonstrating, by their manner, the high opinion they entertained

tertained both of my power and inclination to serve them.

The name of the before-mentioned inhabitant of *Bruyntjes-Hoogte* was incessantly in their mouths; one of them in particular in an agony of rage and despair, violently struck his head, while relating the tragical story of his wife and two children being murdered by the hands of this relentless Colonist.

The following anecdote, however extraordinary it may appear, was related to me by one of these *Caffrees*; and I have since had the truth of it confirmed by different people.

At a time when peace was established between the *Caffrees* and the Colonists, this tyger of *Bruyntjes Hoogte*, being only happy in the bosom

bosom of horror and carnage, in hope of renewing the flame of war, purchased at Cape Town a parcel of unserviceable musket-barrels, which he knew he could readily exchange with the unsuspecting *Caffrees*, who are always in want of iron. The bargain being made before he delivered them, he nailed up the touch-holes, having loaded them with a double charge of powder each, rammed in bits of broken brass, old iron, &c. up to the very mouth. The unhappy *Caffrees* took home their purchase, and immediately set about working them into *assagays*; presently the fires reached the powder, and produced a dreadful explosion, shattering in an instant their contents, wounding in every direction. The man who related this event, which the whole *Hoord* had been witnesses of, made me remark the scars of several wounds

he had received on this tragical occasion.

Injustice and tyranny are odious to the *Caffrees*; but if rendered desperate by persecution, despair has led them to cruelty; the Whites have been to blame in setting them such shocking examples.

Having taken some pains to study the disposition of this people, (who have been so much calumniated) I began to entertain as favourable opinion of them as of the *Hottentots*; my days passed, as usual, continually varying my amusements.

I recommenced my hunting, some of my guests usually attended me; particularly the young *Cassidre*, who frequently gave additional proofs of his skill, striking the game with his unerring *assaygay*.

In one of our excursions he helped me to kill a very large Hippopotamus; it did not prove such good eating as the smaller one. The Caffrees, indeed, set very little store by it; preferring their own beef, the favourite food of these people; who think mutton by no means comparable to it.

The *Caffrees* live so familiarly with their cattle, and speak to them in so kind an accent, that they punctually obey them. They milk into the baskets I have before-mentioned, which are made by the women only; being very light, and not being made of a brittle material, they are found to be very serviceable.

However fond the *Caffree* may be of his cattle, he seems still more so of his dog. My pack were never so much carressed, or fed so plentifully

fully as during the time the Caffrees were with me. My great dog *Gager* was particularly an object of admiration; indeed he was such a favourite, that there was hardly a man among them who would not have given a dozen of his oxen to have become *Gager's* owner.

I still observed, that most of my Hottentots were determined not to accompany me into *Caffraria*. Nevertheless I was fully determined to adhere to my plan. I could not bear the idea, that my people should flatter themselves with having made me alter my resolutions, or of dictating to their chief. I counted on *Klaas* as on myself; I was equally certain of old *Swanepoel*, of the huntsman *Zean*. *Pit* and *Adam* seemed also well disposed; as did also three of the *Gonaquais*.

With

With these eight men I resolved to hazard the journey; but I did not think it prudent to announce it to my Hottentots, until the Caffrees had left my camp.

On the departure of the *Caffrees*, I meant to give them a quantity of glass and hard-ware, which I had a few days before refused to exchange for some of their oxen. I wished very much to persuade the young *Caffree* (whom I have several times mentioned) to remain with me; but he opposed all my solicitations, so absolutely, that I found it impossible to succeed. "I know the Whites too well," says he, "to trust them. They are ever studying to oppress us; and was I simple enough to follow you, after being once reduced to slavery, it would be in vain to remind you of your promise; I should never be permi-

permitted to visit my native country."

I had yet many questions to ask these people. I had not forgot the unhappy sufferers in the Grosvenor East Indiaman; but being situated towards the north-west, they were further from the sea than myself, and could give no positive accounts of this melancholy catastrophe. They had, indeed, seen part of the effects taken from the wreck, which had been exchanged with other hoords for cattle; even the Caffrees now at my camp, possessed some trifling part of the property. One shewed me a piece of silver coin, which he wore at his neck; another a small steel key; they likewise described, as well as they could, a curiosity which had been divided among them. I judged, by their account, that it must have been a wheel; whose wheels they had separated

parated and formed into different ornaments. I was right in my conjecture; for in shewing them mine, they exclaimed it was the same thing, only of a different colour. They added, the most valuable of the effects had been taken by their countrymen that inhabit the sea-coast, who were in possession of a great number of pieces similar to that on the neck of their fellow. As for the people who escaped the wreck, they had been informed some were found dead upon the sand; but that others, more fortunate, had reached a country inhabited by White people.

On the 21st of October, the Caffrees informed me they meant to set off that day. Every protestation of friendship and gratitude was renewed; joined with promises, that through whatever *Hoords* they passed, they would publish how
kindly

kindly and hospitably I had received them. They promised to describe my camp, my person, and above all my beard; which would distinguish me from the Colonists. I accompanied them to the river side, when, having with their beasts swam to the opposite shore, I saluted them, for the last time, with a general discharge of my musketry; and very soon after the trees and bushes intercepted them from my sight.

The *Caffrees* gone, I told my Hottentots, I hoped they would reflect on the tranquil manner they had passed their time with us; and consider every former fear as ill-founded, and conclude, by consenting to accompany me in my expedition. Having said thus much I set off immediately to visit the venerable *Haabas*; determined, if I found this desirable change in
the

the resentments of my people on my return, to strike my camp, and begin my journey before they had time to cool, or alter their determinations.

Haabas was glad to see me, told me his fears on account of the *Caffrees*, who had been at my camp, and proposed to remove further from that people. He wished I would advise with him concerning a new settlement: the result was, that we should gain the western mountains, at a great distance from *Caffraria*.

Before I left *Haabas* I wished him to persuade some more of his people to accompany me: he would not. I therefore took my leave, and returned to my camp.

After conversing with my men on the business of the journey into
Caffraria

Caffraria, I found them unanimous in declaring, their non-compliance was occasioned by a knowledge that neither Whites nor Hottentots ever returned from that country.

The next morning I assembled those on whom I could depend, and informed them I was ready to depart, if they were yet resolved to follow me. I assured them I had no intentions of penetrating farther into *Caffraria*, than appeared consistent with safety; and as it was uncertain with king *Pharoo*, I simply proposed visiting those friendly *Caffrees* who were expecting me with impatience, and endeavour to learn what I could concerning the wreck of the unfortunate Grosvenor. I had the satisfaction to find they were firm to the promise they had before made me. I then told *Swanepoel* I confided in his care during my absence, and
conjured

conjured him to keep good order in the camp.

Our provisions and necessaries were presently got ready. I filled two leathern bags with gunpowder; these were enclosed in a second, to preserve them from damp. I took also eight guns, with balls and shot. I assorted some glass and hard ware into small parcels; took a tent, a woollen coverlet, a cloak, other things indispensibly necessary, and five dogs; nor did I forget a plentiful store of brandy and tobacco.

On the 3d of November I left my camp, on this journey into *Casfraria*, supposed so perilous by part of our people. I had, previous to my departure, taken old *Swanepoel* aside, and told him, that if I found it impracticable to cross *Casfraria*, I would return in fifteen

days: if, at the expiration of that time I did not return, he was to remain six weeks, at the end of which he was to strike the camp, and go to *Cambedo* (his country). I entreated him to be careful of my waggons and collections: in a word, on the least appearance of danger, to think of nothing but getting away in safety. "And should my stay," I added, with an emotion I could not suppress, "give you reason to suppose I have perished in the expedition, take the road to the Cape with the remainder of my people; and put all my effects into the hands of my friend Mr. Boers."

The honest old man could not hear these words without tears. I consoled him, by promising to attempt nothing I might not reasonably expect to succeed in; and
joined

joined those who were waiting my departure.

Thus attended, by eight men, one of whom carried my flag, I began my journey, and soon lost sight of the camp. (I forgot to mention my amuser *Kees* was of the party). Having crossed the river, we took our rout to the north-east, striking at once into the body of *Caffraria*; our march was continually under the shade of the *Mimosa Nilotica*, a fine tree, the whole canton being overspread with them. The grass was high, and my oxen fed as they walked along, without having the trouble of bending their heads to the ground.

My dogs sprung a *bustard*, which I killed; it was different from any that have yet been described, and larger than the European duck. The plumage on the neck, the breast, and belly light and blue; the rest

of the body red, pointed and streaked with black.

We continued our journey five hours, then we stopped. I skinned the *bustard* I had shot; it made me a good meal, while my men used the provisions we had brought with us. My oxen having fed all the way, laid themselves down to sleep. In the afternoon we had a storm, with thunder; notwithstanding which we pursued our journey; for as we had no shelter where we dined, the inconvenience arising from bad weather was not augmented by travelling. By five o'clock we were so much fatigued, that I ordered the tent to be erected, large fires to be kindled; and having dried ourselves as well as we could, retired to rest. The rain came in torrents, soaking through our coverings, that we found our situation so disagreeable, that we prepared for
our

our departure before day-break ; but the rising sun dispersing the clouds, our oxen being weary, and the distance, by *Hans's* account, to the nearest *Kraal* of the *Caffarees*, being three leagues ; I determined to remain where I was another night.

While we were in this place, one of my men killed a Gazell, of the kind called a *Gnou*, resembling a steer, or small ox.

We proceeded early in the morning, and arrived at the *Kraal*, but did not find a single inhabitant. Here, for the first time since my quitting the colonies, I discovered some kind of cultivation ; a kind of mellet was growing, called *Caffrarian corn*.

I took up my residence in my tent as usual, while the Hottentots occupied

occupied some of the huts; and before us ran a clear water, over a bottom of pebbles. Nothing remarkable happened during our encampment at this place, except, that every day, between three and four o'clock, we experienced short but violent storms.

On the ninth day of the month, we packed up our baggage, and continued our journey.

We took an eastward course, crossing a country, whose grass had totally been destroyed by fire. We saw flocks of *springbock*, *guorou*, and ostriches: I sent a few unsuccessful shots after the latter, who were too shy to let me approach them. I shot as many partridges as dined all my people; but did not stop to dress them till after five hours hard travel. An ostrich starting before me, at about twenty paces from our track,
I thought

I thought it might have been sitting; I ran to the spot from whence it rose, where I found eleven eggs, quite warm, and four others at the distance of two or three feet from the nest. And it is worthy of remark, that this bird always places near her nest a number of eggs, proportioned to those she intends to sit on, which remaining separate and uncovered, continue good for some time; being designed by this provident mother for the first nourishment of her young.

At half past seven we stopped at a large lake, formed by the rains, where we watered our oxen, made our fires, and dressed our eggs; they were delicious, and one of them is equal to forty-eight pullets eggs; The evening passed chearfully; not so the night, being disturbed by the barking of our dogs; but we never could find from what cause their noise proceeded. On the tenth we continued our journey eastward.

eastward. Having crossed a thick forest of *Memosa* trees, we came to a small river, which we forded; and walked along its banks for full two leagues, when night coming on, we pitched our tents.

Our guide informed me, that three leagues further there was a *Hoord* that would be glad to see us. Next morning I sent *Hans* forward, attended by two of my Hottentots, well armed, appointing a rendezvous within a league of the above-mentioned *Kraal*. This party met me according to the appointment, and informed me that they had found the *Kraal* in a good state; but, like the last, totally deserted. We continued our journey, and took possession of it. Here we found above a hundred huts, well constructed: in one of them I found two *assaygays*. I determined to remain in this place two days;

days; and in the mean time endeavoured to discover if any *Caffrees* were in the neighbourhood; but all our researches were in vain, not one *Caffree* was to be seen.

I now turned my thoughts to the wrecked vessel, and although (from the *Caffrees* account) I had but little chance of finding it; I turned towards the coast, flattering myself I should at least obtain more certain information.

On every side we saw deserted huts, but no appearance of any inhabitants. Since my departure from *Koks Kraal*, I had made so considerable an addition to my collection of birds, that I found difficulty to stow them, in a manner necessary for their preservation.

On the fifteenth we crossed a little river, and I now took my
course

course rather more to the southward; traversing the country without seeing a *Cassree*. We began to experience a want of water; but by the sagacity of *Kees*, we were soon relieved from that difficulty, he having discovered a fountain. We encamped near this welcome spring, which I called *Kees-fountain*.

Resolving to pass the night at this place, I ordered my tent to be pitched. The gathering clouds announced a storm, and it soon rained abundantly, but it was not lasting: as soon as it was over, while ranging to discover birds, two serpents, of a bright yellow colour, suddenly started up before me; they were of the species well known in the colonies by the name of *Kooper Kapel*. These reptiles, on seeing me, swelled their heads prodigiously, hissing in a fearful manner.

ner. I knew their bite to be mortal, and the facility with which they dart to a considerable distance, renders them still more dangerous. I fired; one fell dead on the spot, and the other took refuge in his hole. That I killed, measured five feet three inches in length, and nine inches in circumference; besides an infinite number of small sharp teeth, it had a hook on each side his upper jaw, jointed, which he could contract or throw out at pleasure.

At night we perceived a fire; which, as well as the darkness would permit us to judge, might be at three leagues distance. My *Hottentots* thought they discerned the shadows of men passing and repassing before it, and my glass convinced me they were not mistaken. The question now was, were they *Cassrees*, or the *Boshis-men*,
P enemies

enemies of all nations, thieves and murderers by profession? We concluded them to be of the latter sort, as the *Cassrees* never inhabit the tops of mountains; therefore took the precaution to extinguish our fire, and the night passed in tranquillity.

On the morrow my first care was to discover to whom those fires belonged; but being extinguished, I was deprived of any fixed point of direction; and my people, persuaded they were not *Cassrees*, did not seem to like to follow me. I therefore gave it over, had our baggage packed, and bade farewell to *Kees-Fountain*.

We crossed a wood of *Memosa* trees, with much difficulty, covered with dust, and overcome with heat; after six hours march, we stopped by the side of a lake. As
soon

soon as we were encamped, I sent some Hottentots to discover, if possible, those who had given us such inquietude the night before; in less than an hour one of them brought me information that they had discovered a company of *Caffrees*; he now conducted me and *Hans* till we could discern ten men conducting some cattle very peaceably; on seeing us, they were about to escape, but *Hans* calling to them in their own language, telling them they had nothing to fear, they stopped till he joined them. On being informed I was a friend to the *Caffrees*, they immediately approached, and I presented to them my hand. On sight of my beard, their fears subsided, having heard of me from those *Caffrees* I had entertained at *Koks Kraal*; one of them was likewise acquainted with *Hans*, whom he had seen in his own country. I took them to

my tent, and regaled them with tobacco and brandy. I found the fires we had seen in the night belonged to them. I enquired about the Grosvenor; but learnt little more than that it had been cast away on the coast of *Caffraria*, except that they had seen several white men among the *Tambouches* some time ago; when they exchanged some merchandize with that people for nails taken from the wreck. From this I concluded, the melancholy event had happened beyond the country of the *Tambouches* as high at *Madagascar*, towards the channel of *Mosambique*.

I passed the whole day in conversation with these *Caffrees*, gaining thereby a great deal of useful information. My Hottentots found them of so friendly a nature, that at night they entreated me to let them remain among us; I granted their

their request, and then retired to my tent to repose myself, and prepare for the fatigues of the morrow.

In the morning, when the *Caffrees* were going to leave us, I called my men together, and told them, that after what we had heard the evening before of the difficulties we might encounter, with the danger of being assaulted by the *Tambouches* or *Boshis-men*, who were now scattered over every part of *Caffraria*, I thought it most prudent to return to *Koks Kraal*.

The pleasure that brightened their features, plainly shewed how much my conversation had pleased them; and they unanimously expressed their satisfaction.

Before the *Caffrees* left my camp, I presented them with a good quantity

tity of tobacco, reserving only enough for my men till we could reach the camp. The *Caffrees* helped us to pack up, and load our oxen; after which, wishing each other a good journey, we separated; they going to the northward, and we to the south.

We were three days making the banks of the *Groot Vis*; during which time nothing remarkable happened. We journied along its banks for three days. On the morning of the fourth we discovered the high mountains; this occasioned great joy, as it was an assurance that we should shortly see our camp, our flocks, our wealth, and the rest of our companions: we quickened our pace, and late the same night reached the camp undiscovered, where every thing was in perfect order. But the dogs immediately spread the alarm, and my

my people knowing their voices, ran out instantly, every one expressing the greatest joy, at our return; even the dogs seemed to share the general satisfaction. My family had encreased during my absence. A detachment of the worthy *Gonaquais* had quitted their *Kraal*, and settled on the spot I had assigned the *Caffrees*; having constructed several new huts.

Swanepoel gave me a very satisfactory account of all my people; and I was delighted to find myself returned. I was now surrounded by my numerous family; who were all smoaking their pipes round a great fire; not excepting the *Gonaquais* women, each individual being regaled with a double portion of brandy, while I enjoyed my tea and milk, which I had for some time been deprived of.

I fixed

I fixed our departure for the 8th, that we might have time to repair the waggons, construct a new tilt for that which contained my arms, ammunition, &c. replace the old traces for new ones, cast some balls and shot, and settle my journal.

The eighth, the happy day of our departure for the Cape, at length arrived, and every thing was in readiness; however I prolonged our stay for two days, that we might have time to bid farewell to our good neighbours, and make merry with them. The news being carried to *Haabas*, I soon saw men and women hasten to us; *Haabas* preceded them, all that were able following to take leave of us.

During the forty-eight hours we had to pass together, all was rejoicing

ing and pleasing ; my brandy was not spared, any more than the mead that *Haabas* had prepared and brought with him. I gave to *Haabas* and his people every thing I could possibly spare, particularly tobacco, keeping only enough to supply my own men till we reached the Cape.

I now took leave of the venerable *Haabas*, entreating him with earnestness, to follow the council I had given respecting his Hoord. He promised to take my advice. I then mounted my horse ; I dared not look back, I would not speak, nor am I ashamed to own, tears eased the oppression of my heart.

It was the 10th of December. From the information we had procured, I presumed we should find *Sneuw-Bergen* towards the west ; and that by leaving *Bruyntjes-Hoogte*
on

on the left, and crossing the chain of mountains, we should reach this canton, after a journey of about forty or fifty leagues.

We travelled six leagues, though the heat was excessive ; and about one o'clock, stopped on the ruins of a *Kraal*, the sight of which inspired horror. The unhappy *Hoord* most probably having been massacred ; as the earth was strewed with human bones and mangled limbs. A revolting spectacle ; which we quitted as soon as possible, and pursued our journey till four o'clock, which brought us to an abandoned habitation. Here we resolved to pass the night ; but were hardly settled before our bodies were covered with fleas. We quitted the place immediately, and pitched our tent on the banks of a pleasing rivulet ; in which I plunged, without taking time to undress.

Our

Our new situation was very agreeable, but never did the awful silence of night strike me so powerfully as in this place; the profoundness, which was at intervals broken by the roaring of lions, gave it an additional solemnity. Every day I added to my collection; which I enriched by a beautiful bird, unknown to the ornithologists; my men named it *Vyt Lager* (the Mocker) as it was sufficient for them to see us; or even our animals, to make them assemble by scores; and perching perpendicularly on the branches, balancing their bodies backward and forward, deafened us with a quick repetition of *gra, ga, ga, ga*. This poor bird seemed to surrender at discretion; for we killed as many of them as we pleased. It is nearly the size of a blackbird; his plumage shaded with gold colour, purple and green; the tail long and pointed, like the head of a lance; that and the wings are spotted with white;

fell, and presently a third, being only slightly wounded, hung by the tail to a small branch; a second shot brought him down. I picked up my four monkies, and walked towards my camp. They were of a middle size, the hair moderately long, and of a greenish colour; the belly white, and face entirely black. While I was examining them, *Kees* entered my tent. I knew his fear of those animals, and expected him to be much alarmed; but he appeared to fear dead monkeys much less than living ones. He turned them over and over, as he had observed me to do; nor was he, I believe, the first monkey that had aped the naturalists.

I left this place the 28th, and after three hours march met some *Hottentots*, with flocks of sheep, going to join their respective *Hoords*.

I purchased

I purchased two sheep of them, and we parted.

About three hours after, we stopped at the *Klein Vis*, which we now met for the third time since we first crossed it. I encamped here to repair one of my wheels, and two days after, according to my callendar, was the first day of the year, 1782.

We continued our journey on the third, leaving behind us the chain of mountains, situated near *Bruyntjes Hoogte*; and perceiving those of *Sneuw-Bergen* to the north, which we wished to reach. Though it was the hottest time of the year, we discovered snow in the chasms and hollows towards the top of these formidable mountains. While I was amusing myself with my glass, the Hottentots told me they saw a white man. On his coming up, he informed me, he had travelled

a considerable way to procure salt from a lake situated near *SwariKop* river: I immediately joined him. By the way he informed me that on the commencement of the war with the *Caffrees*, he had the misfortune with his wife, his only son, and attendant *Hottentot*, to be attacked during the night by some of those people; they immediately concealed themselves in the thickets, but at day-break found his son pierced with several wounds of the *assaygays*. He also told me, that the hatred of the *Caffrees* was irrevocably fixed: an unfortunate event for the innocent, who suffer equally with their guilty oppressors.

To amuse this traveller, I desired him to pass the night at my camp, regaling him in my best manner with tea and tobacco. Our conversation turning upon horses,
he

he told me, that one of his friends, an inhabitant of *Swart Kops*, had shewn him one he caught when hunting. This account reminds me of that I had abandoned on the banks of the *Kromm river* about eight months before. After the description I gave of him, he was convinced it was my horse, and immediately offered me two of his oxen for him; desiring a line to make good his claim. Wishing to oblige him, I agreed to his proposal, giving him an order to reclaim my horse.

We continued our way, keeping *Sneuw-Bergen* in sight; where I hoped to arrive the same day; but by eleven o'clock the heat was so great, that we were obliged to halt on the banks of the *Bly*, and there pass the night. This river, which is sometimes a torrent, was now almost dried up; and we were oblig-

ed to quench our thirst with ill-tasted and stagnant water that remained in the hollows.

At day-break we quitted this disagreeable spot ; and after three hours and a half's journey, we arrived at *Vogel river* (Birds river), our fatigue preventing us from going further.

On the morning of the sixth we continued our way up Birds river. On the seventh, the very moment of our departure, on counting the cattle, I found three were wanting. They were, after a long search, found ; but it prevented our setting off till near seven at night. The days were at the longest, the evening fresh ; and as we could not be more than four leagues from *Platte river* ; it was my intent to reach it, and stop there for the night.

We had not got two leagues before the horses and cattle took fright, and were in the greatest disorder; this I knew to be owing to some lions being at hand; we took to our arms, and kindled a great fire. The night was not dark, and being on a sandy plain, we could distinguish objects at a good distance; the dogs kept very near us, by which I knew our enemies were not far off. I presently saw two lions on a small hillock, apparently waiting for us. We fired altogether, but without effect, and they immediately disappeared.

At day-break I went to the spot where we had seen the lions; I followed the prints of their feet some time, by which I was convinced we had been very closely beset.

When

When we reached *Platte river*, we found it dry: sinking with drought, we walked up the banks for three quarters of an hour, when we found some holes of muddy water that the sun had not yet exhaled. Here was no majestic forest to charm the eye! no delightful pastures! but rocks topping each other, and parched sands. Winter was seated on the summit of mount *Snewwberg*, as if disputing with the sun the empire of this miserable climate.

My intention was to climb and explore this famous mountain; but as I knew it to be the resort of the *Boshis-men*, as well as lions, I determined to shelter myself from the surprise of either. I then placed my tent openly, fortifying it in the best manner I could.

Here I found marks of the feet of a *rhinoceros*; we looked out
strictly

strictly for those animals, but was not fortunate enough to meet with any. Some of my men informed me, that while searching for the *rhinoceros*, they had met with a *Hoord* of savages, whose *Kraal* was situated at the foot of the mountain.

I resolved to visit them; and set out very early next morning attended by three of my best marksmen, for the *Kraal*. They received me with kindness; and were not surprised to see me; having been informed the preceding evening, that I should certainly visit them. They were poor and miserable, and had taken refuge in this dreary spot, to avoid the cruelty of the Colonists; unconscious of having run in the way of the *Boshis-men*.

I exchanged several articles they stood in need of, for four sheep,
which

which they were to bring in the morning giving them beside some presents and advice.

It rained all night, but abated with the morning; there was now no want of water, and the Hottentots which I had assisted, brought the four sheep, and an old cow. These people preferred tobacco to beads, which they seemed to have plenty of. As on my return to the Cape, I could easily recruit my stock of tobacco, I was not sparing of it; my prodigality pleased them, and they soon returned with eleven more sheep, which I purchased with the same article.

One day, when several of these strangers were at my camp, one of the keepers of my flock came to inform me that several *Boshis-men* had come down from the mountain, and drew near them; but had been kept in awe by a few discharges

charges of their muskets. Myself and Klaas got on horseback, attended by four good marksmen, went in quest of these dangerous plunderers, and soon discovered thirteen of them; but seeing we advanced resolutely, and hearing our balls whistle through the air, they presently took to flight; and though we followed full speed, could not come near enough to hit them.

This little alarm was of great service to me, as it rendered the Hottentots diligent. I doubled the guard, *Swanepoel* and myself alternately going the round; while *Klaas* at the head of a small detachment scoured the valley and environs. These expressions were pleasing to my *Hottentots*, who fear even the lion less than the *Bosshis-men*.

Being

Being determined to climb the heights *Snewberg*, I was advised to be on my guard, as the *Boshis-men* were there in great numbers. However, I explored the most conspicuous eminences of this dreary spot, with safety. I soon after crossed the river *Juben*, and entered the shrill plain of *Carouw*. After five hours journey we gained the banks of the *Vogel*, the heat increasing daily. When, having got to the *Sondag*, we met fifteen *Hottentots*, who had left *Cambedo*, on account of the *Boshis-men*, who were rendering the country a scene of blood and devastation.

In the evening we encamped on the river *Cambedo*, and having killed four *Gnous*, we occupied three days in salting them.

On the sixteenth we reached the plantation of two free *Negroe* brothers ;

hers ; who treated us with the greatest kindness for three days.

We then continued our way, through a country parched with drought; in which we suffered severely ; but, persevering in my journey, I reached the Cape, and my friend Mr. Boers, on the 26th of March, where I parted with my people ;—distributing among them such of my effects as would be of no service to me at the town. I held out my hand to Klaas, who was loath to quit me. I desired him to come and see me often, which he promised to do ; and I could not see him depart without emotion.

E I N I S.

R

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